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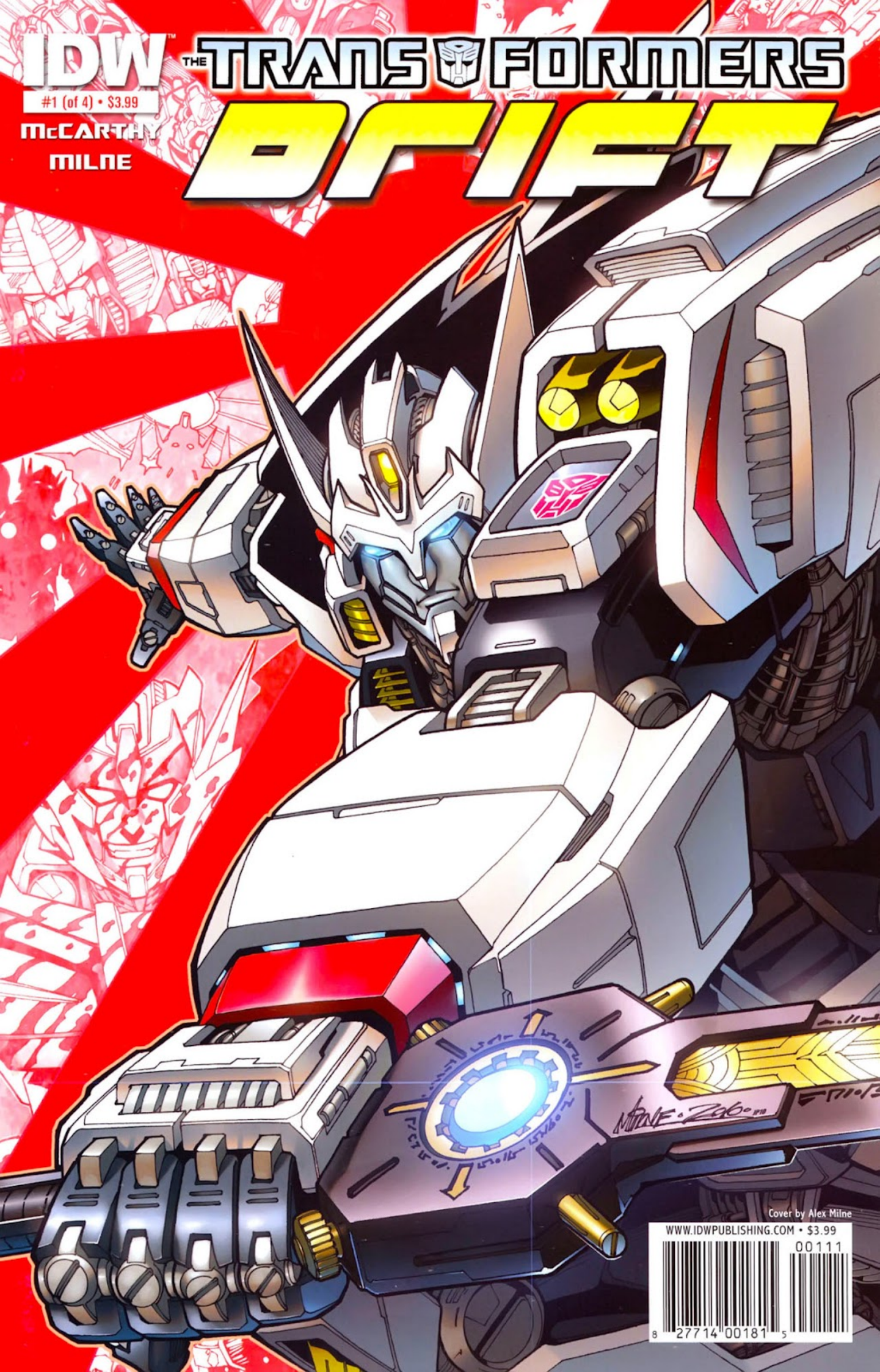
# THE TRANSFORMERS DRIFT

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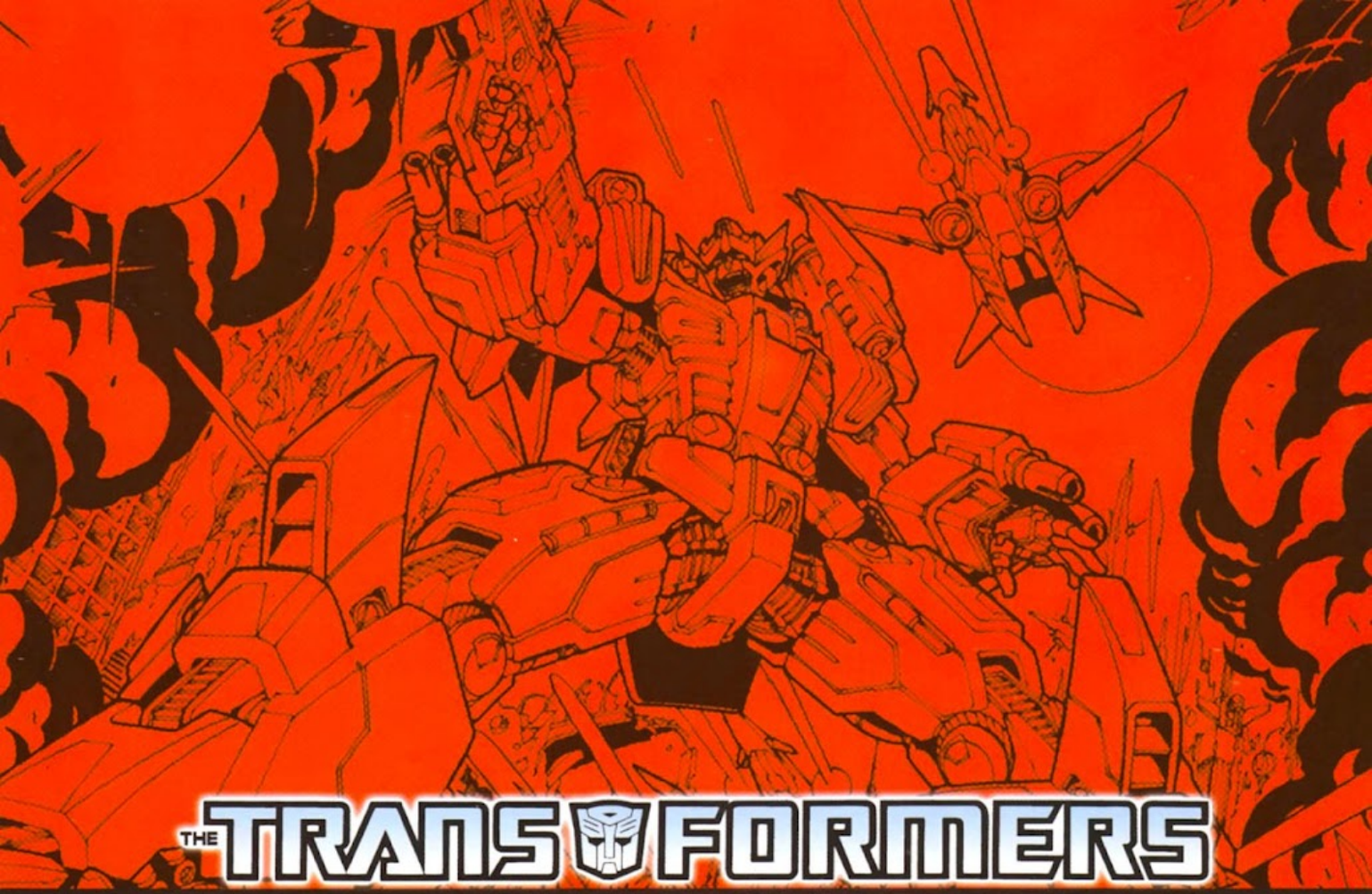

# THE TRANSFORMERS DRIFT

## ISSUE #1 CREDITS

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**RI COVER**
ART: GUIDO GUIDI
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STORY SO FAR...

Once a Decepticon, Drift now fights alongside the courageous Autobots in the ongoing Civil War.

While he wears their insignia and sees himself as an Autobot through and through, Drift is still met with mistrust by many of his Autobot allies. Hated by the Decepticons and distrusted by the Autobots, Drift is seen by many as an outcast.

How he came to be here, why he was once known as Deadlock, and how he came to be at odds with his Decepticon allies is a story that has never been told. Until now...

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Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Michael Kelly, Amie Lozanski, Val Roca, Ed Lane, Michael Provost, Erin Hillman, Samantha Lomow, and Michael Verrecchia for their invaluable assistance.

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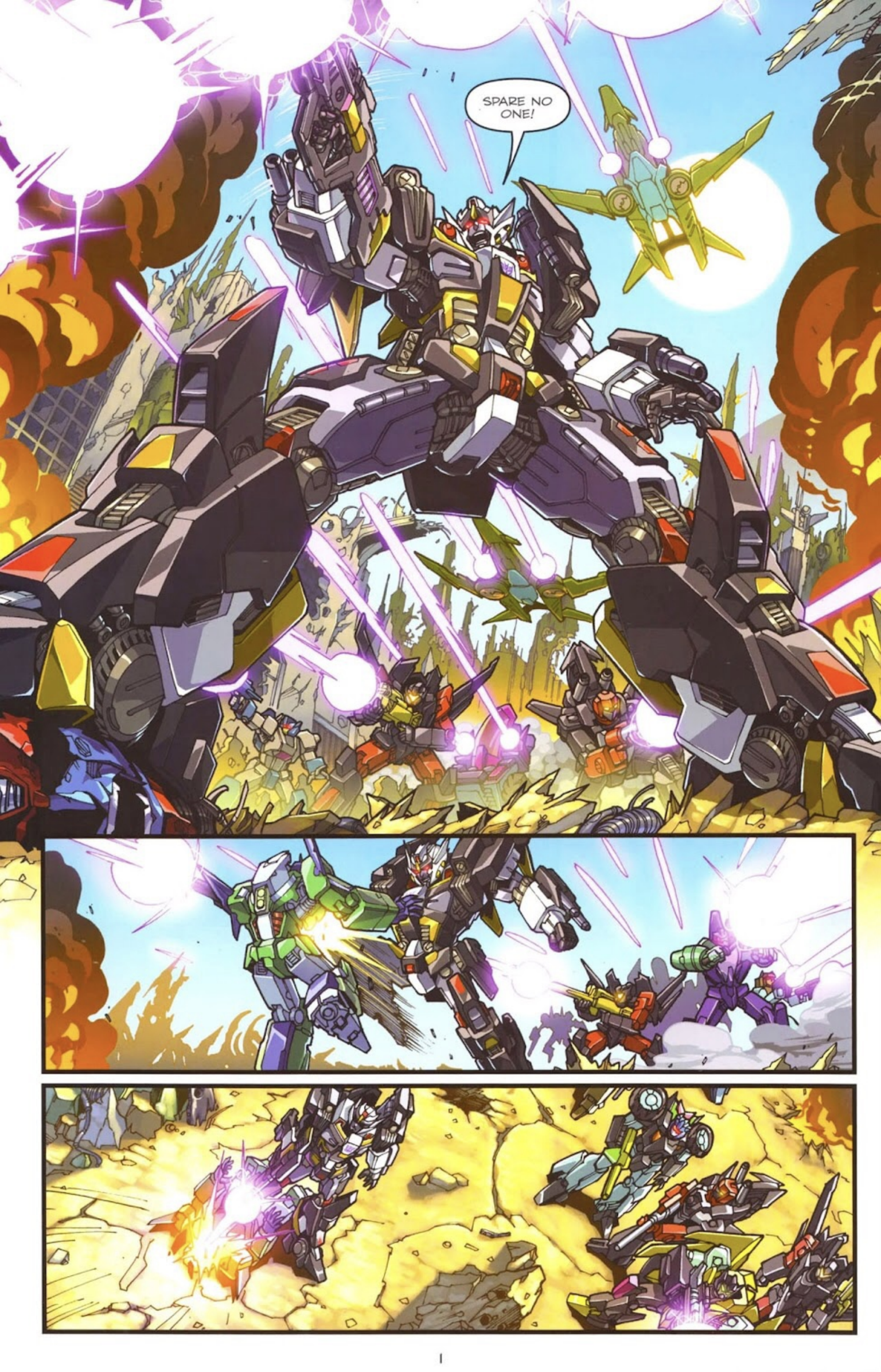
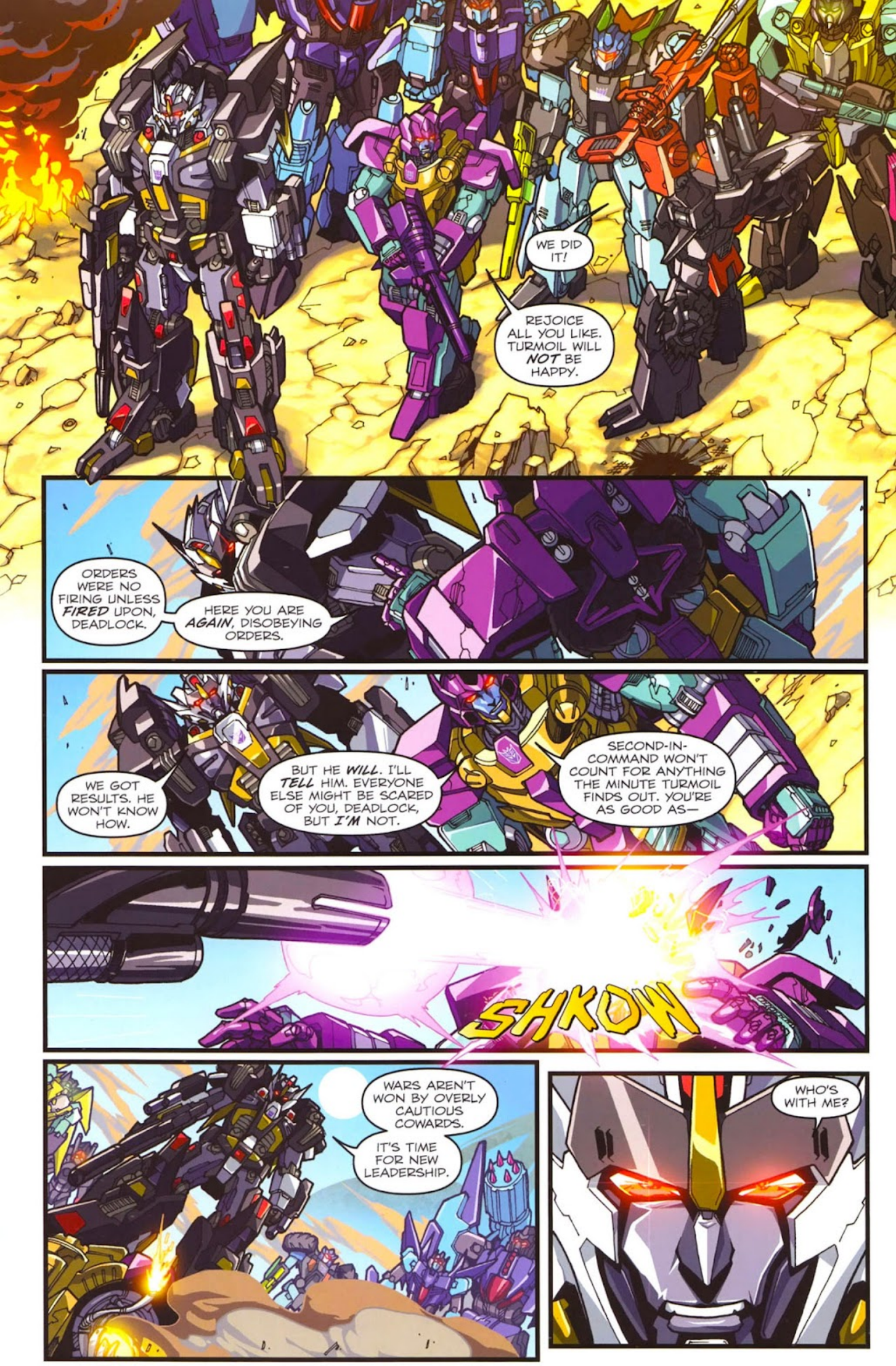

SPARE NO ONE!

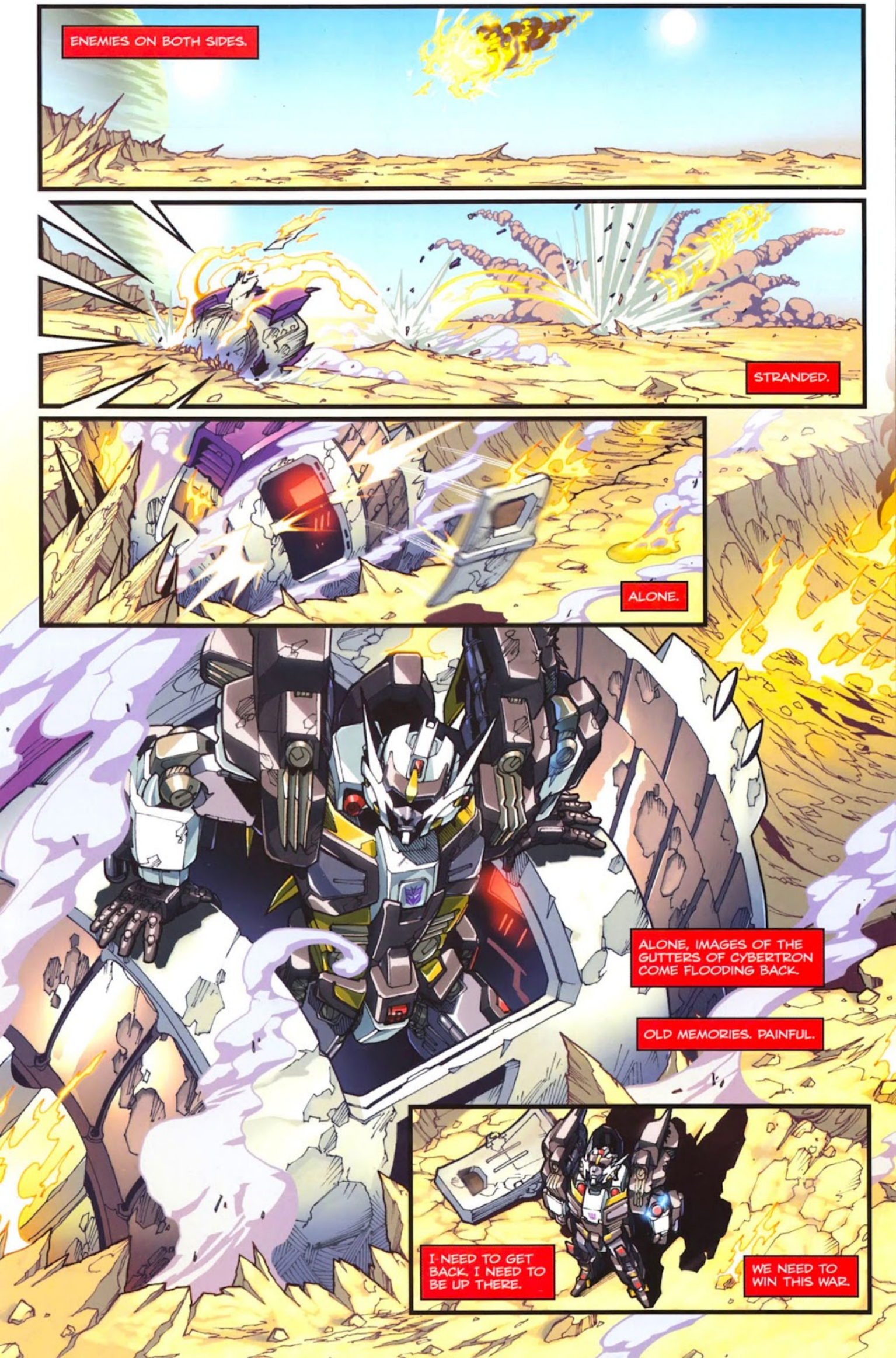
GATHER THE OTHERS! WE'RE PULLING OUT. DO IT!
ARGHH!
RETREAT!
DON'T LET UP!


WE DID IT!
REJOICE ALL YOU LIKE. TURMOIL WILL NOT BE HAPPY.
ORDERS WERE NO FIRING UNLESS FIRED UPON, DEADLOCK.
HERE YOU ARE AGAIN, DISOBEYING ORDERS.
WE GOT RESULTS. HE WON'T KNOW HOW.
BUT HE WILL. I'LL TELL HIM. EVERYONE ELSE MIGHT BE SCARED OF YOU, DEADLOCK, BUT I'M NOT.
SECOND-IN-COMMAND WON'T COUNT FOR ANYTHING THE MINUTE TURMOIL FINDS OUT. YOU'RE AS GOOD AS—
SHKOW
WARS AREN'T WON BY OVERLY CAUTIOUS COWARDS.
IT'S TIME FOR NEW LEADERSHIP.
WHO'S WITH ME?

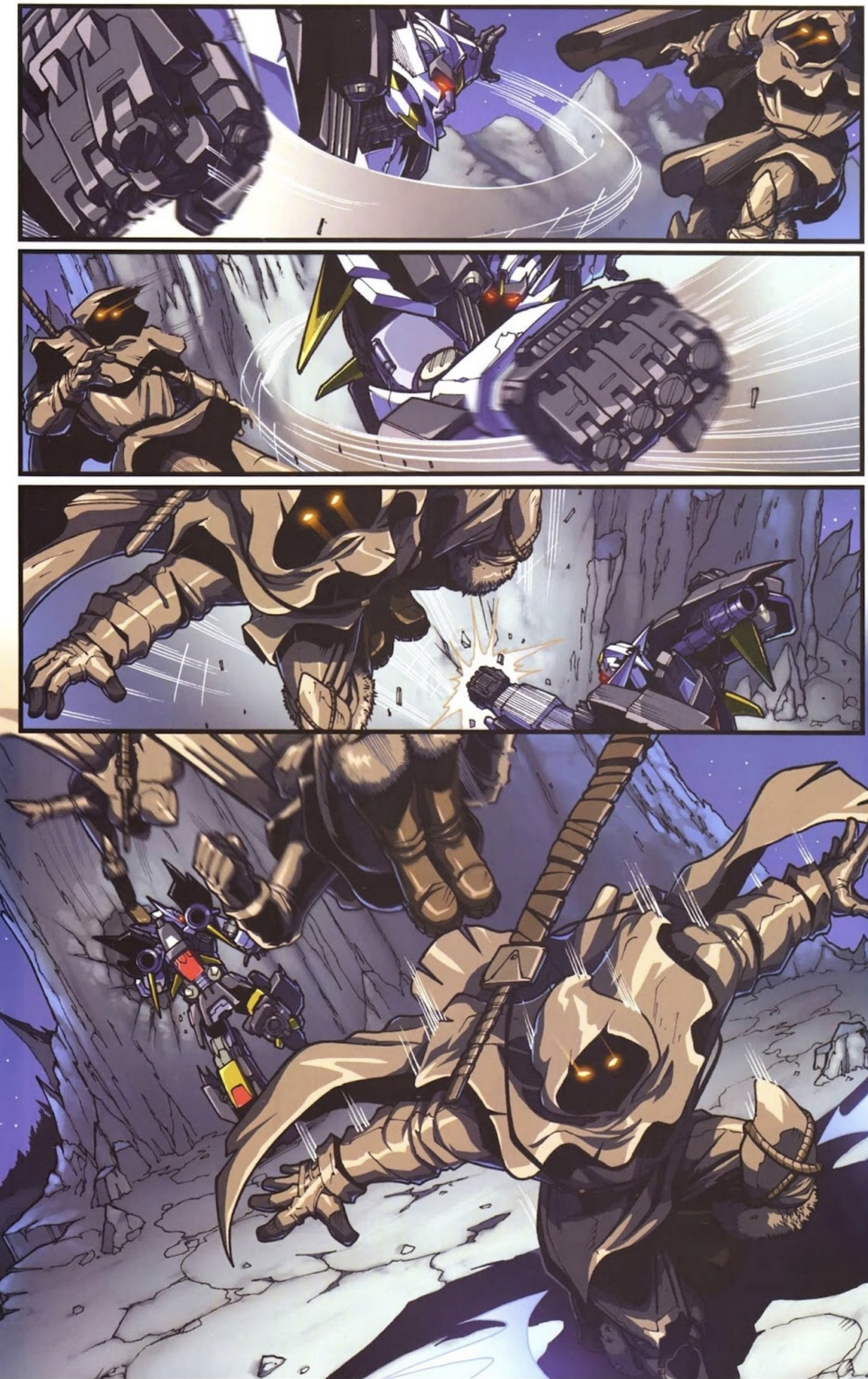
HOLD HIM!
GET HIS GUNS!
STASIS LOCKED. LET'S SEE YOU CHANGE MODES AND ESCAPE NOW.
BETRAYER.
LIKE I NEED A DISEASE.
YOU NEED ME, TURMOIL.
YOU'RE BECOMING INCREASINGLY RECKLESS, DESPERATE.
I'M TRYING TO WIN THIS WAR!

SKOOOM
STOP HIM!
INITIATING PROTOCOL

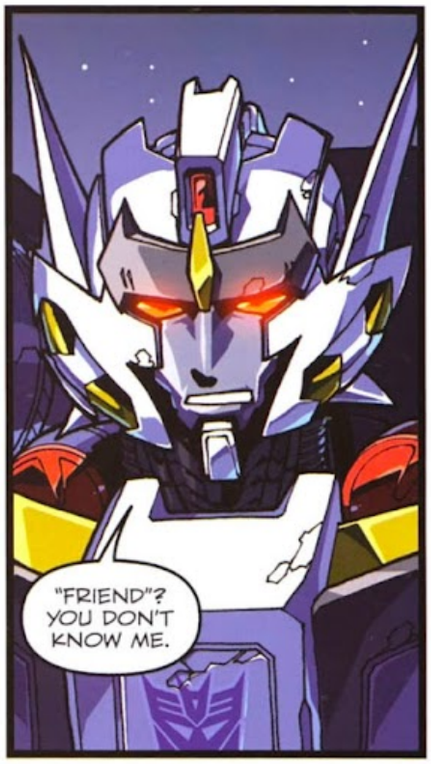
TRACK THAT ESCAPE POD!
WE'RE TRYING TO, SIR, BUT IT'S NO USE. OUR SYSTEMS ARE IN EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN.
WHAT?!
"HE INITIATED THE EMERGENCY SYSTEM PROTOCOLS!
"BY THE TIME WE'RE UP AND RUNNING AGAIN, HE'LL BE LONG GONE."
SPREAD THE WORD. DEADLOCK HAS BEEN BANISHED.
KILL ON SIGHT.


ENEMIES ON BOTH SIDES.
STRANDED.
ALONE.
ALONE, IMAGES OF THE GUTTERS OF CYBERTRON COME FLOODING BACK.
OLD MEMORIES. PAINFUL.
I NEED TO GET BACK. I NEED TO BE UP THERE.
WE NEED TO WIN THIS WAR.

THE GUTTERS. THE SMELL.
THE SMELL THAT WOULD NEVER LEAVE.
I'M BACK THERE AGAIN.
OLD MEMORIES...
...AND NO ONE TO SAVE ME THIS TIME.

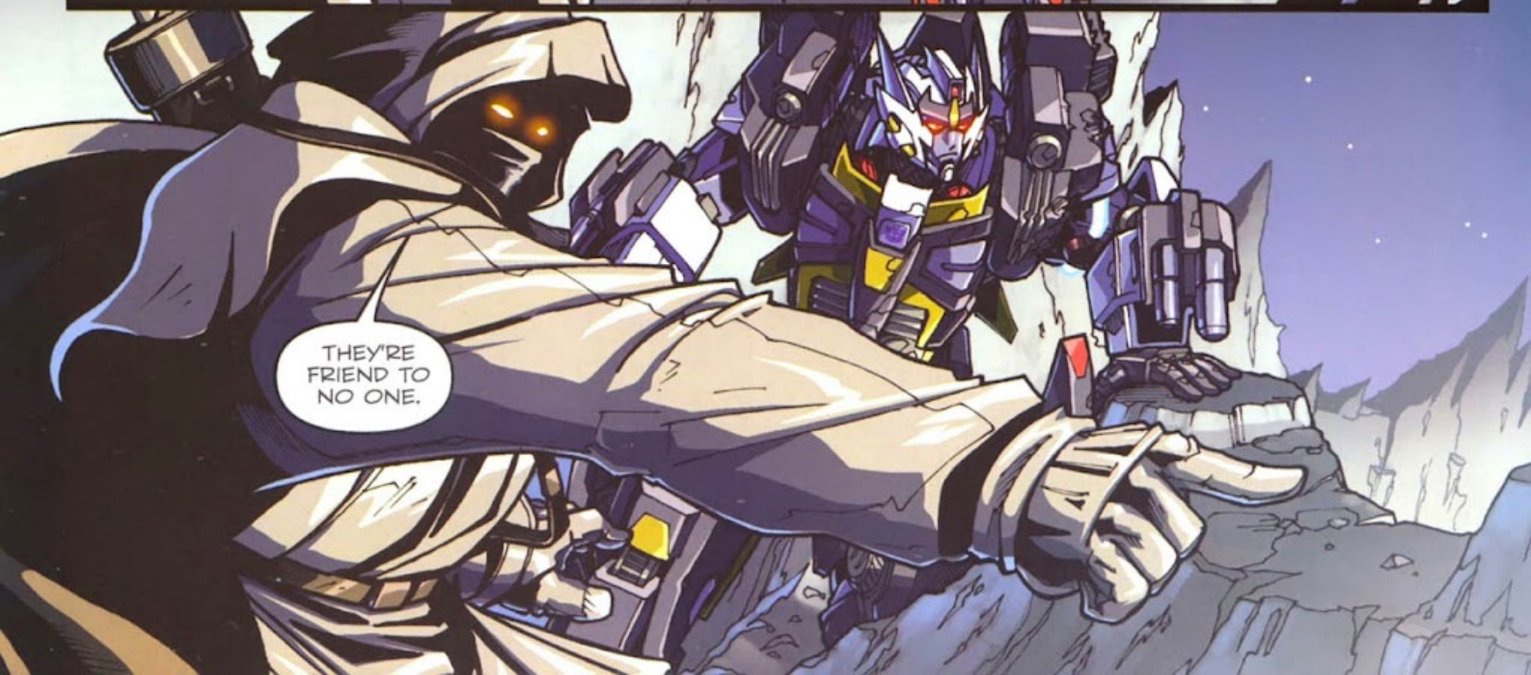


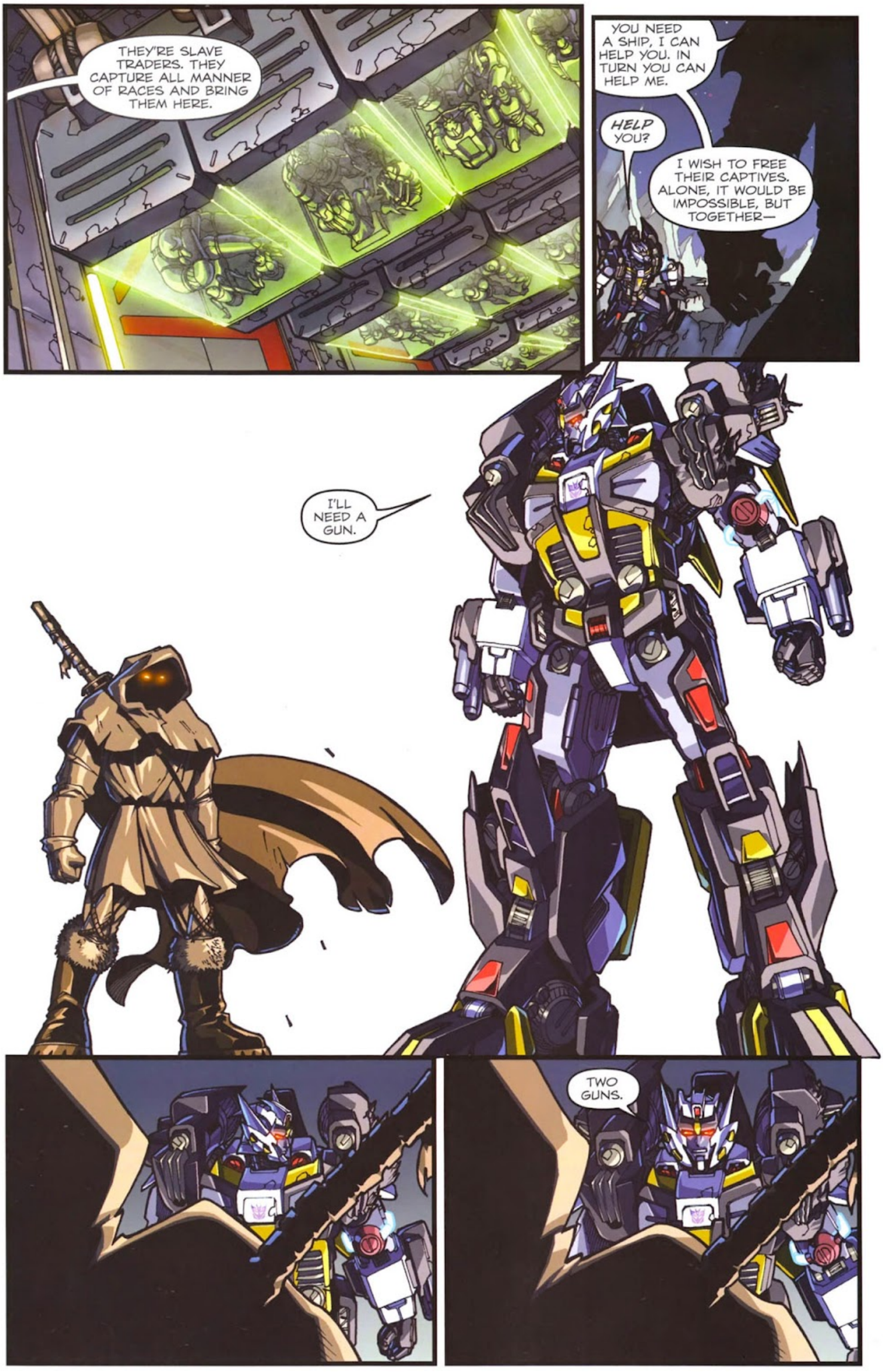
CALM YOURSELF, STRANGER, I'M A FRIEND.


"FRIEND"? YOU DON'T KNOW ME.

I DON'T NEED TO KNOW YOU TO MEAN YOU NO HARM.
I AM YOUR ALLY, MY NAME IS *WING*.

WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? YOU'RE NOT FROM THIS PLANET. ARE THERE OTHERS OF YOUR KIND WITH YOU?
I NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE. I NEED A SHIP.
YOU'RE ONE OF THEM? THEY'RE FRIENDS OF YOURS?


THEY'RE FRIEND TO NO ONE.


THEY'RE SLAVE TRADERS. THEY CAPTURE ALL MANNER OF RACES AND BRING THEM HERE.
YOU NEED A SHIP, I CAN HELP YOU. IN TURN YOU CAN HELP ME.
HELP YOU?
I WISH TO FREE THEIR CAPTIVES. ALONE, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE, BUT TOGETHER—
I'LL NEED A GUN.
TWO GUNS.

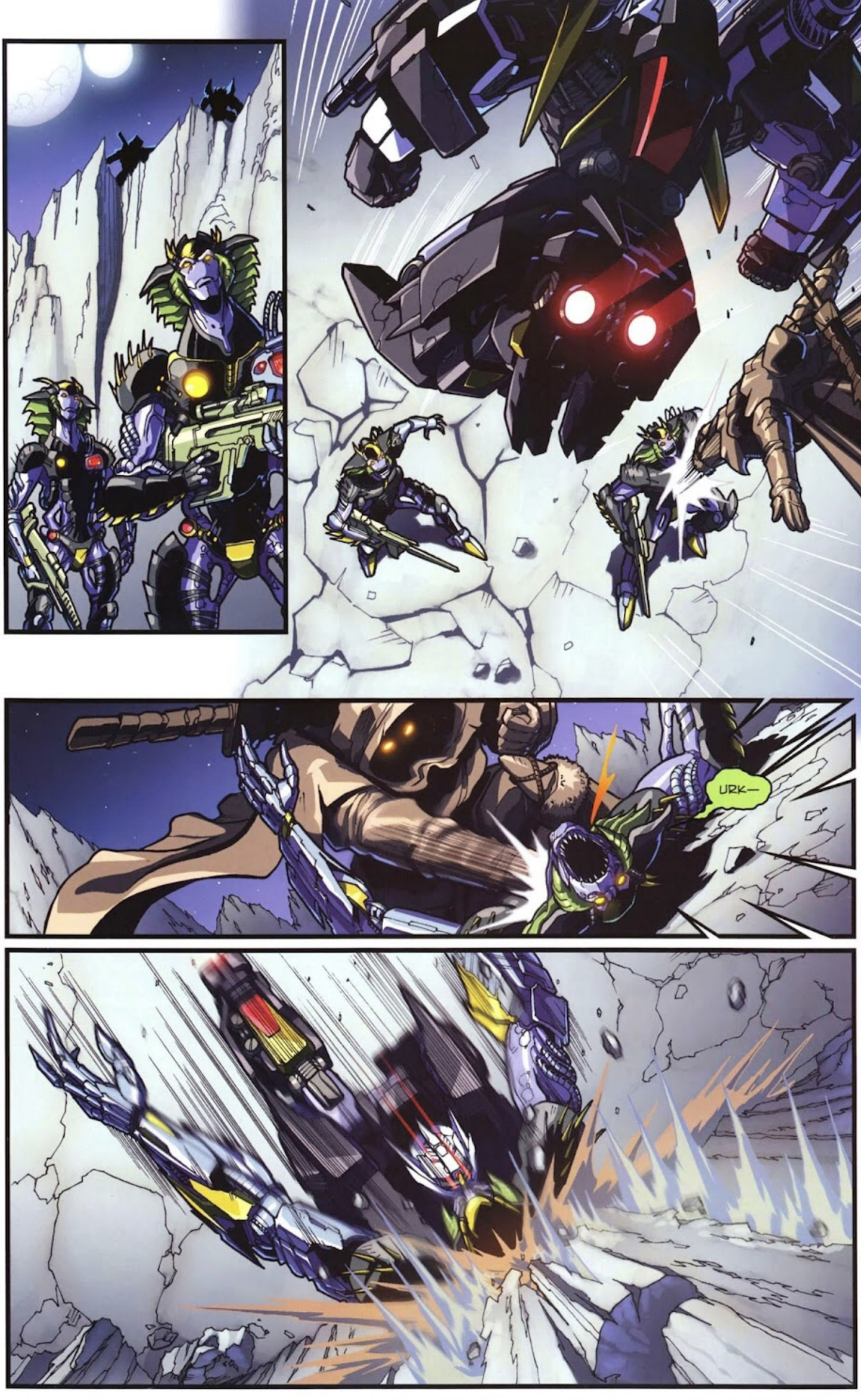
WE CAN STRIKE THE GUARDS ON THE UPPER PASS FIRST. YOU CAN USE THEIR ARMAMENTS.
ONCE WE FREE THE CAPTIVES, WE'LL COMMANDEER YOU A SHIP. YOU CAN TAKE THE CAPTIVES WITH YOU.

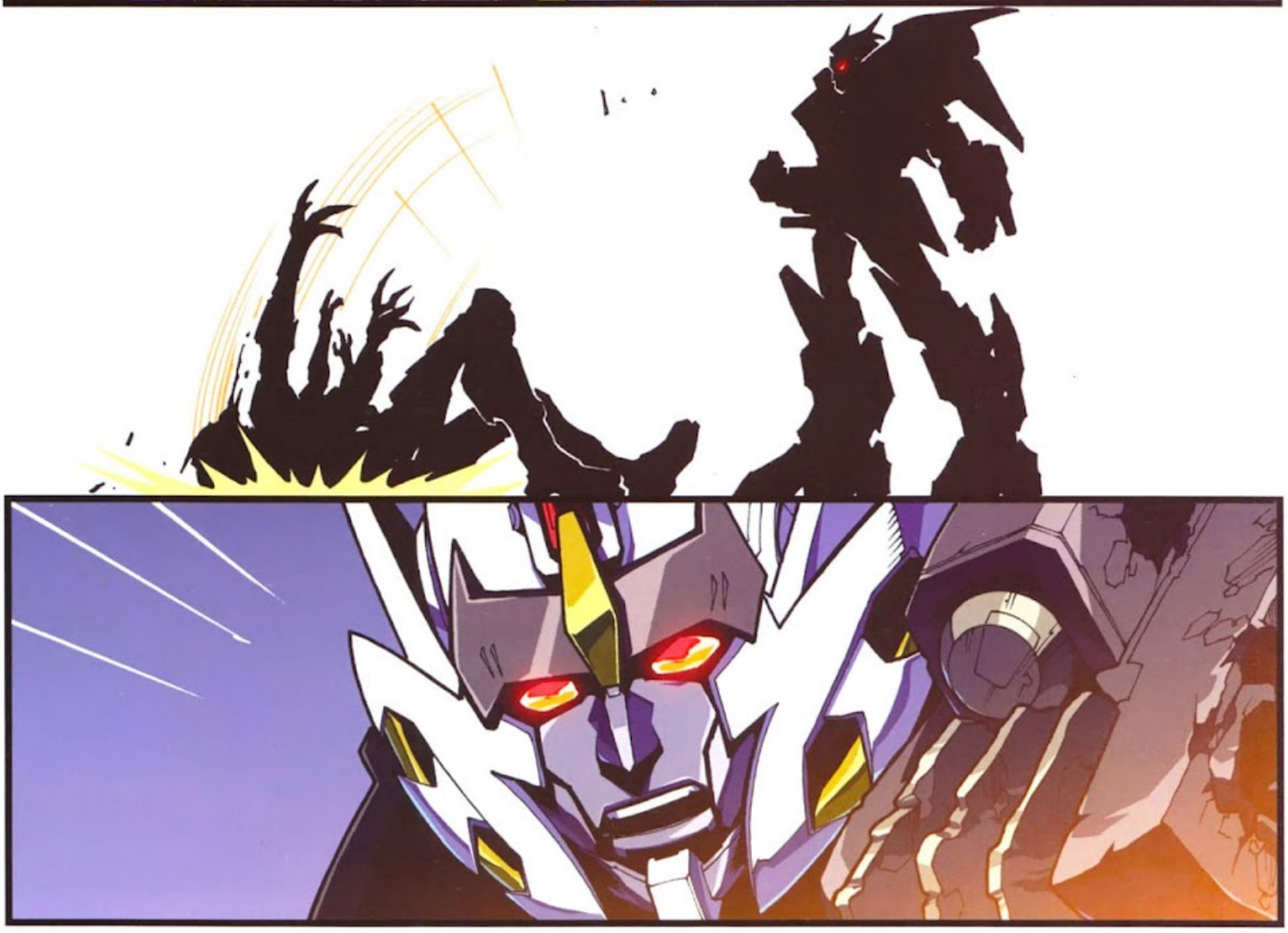
NOT LIKELY.
I CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLANET. YOU MUST DO THIS.

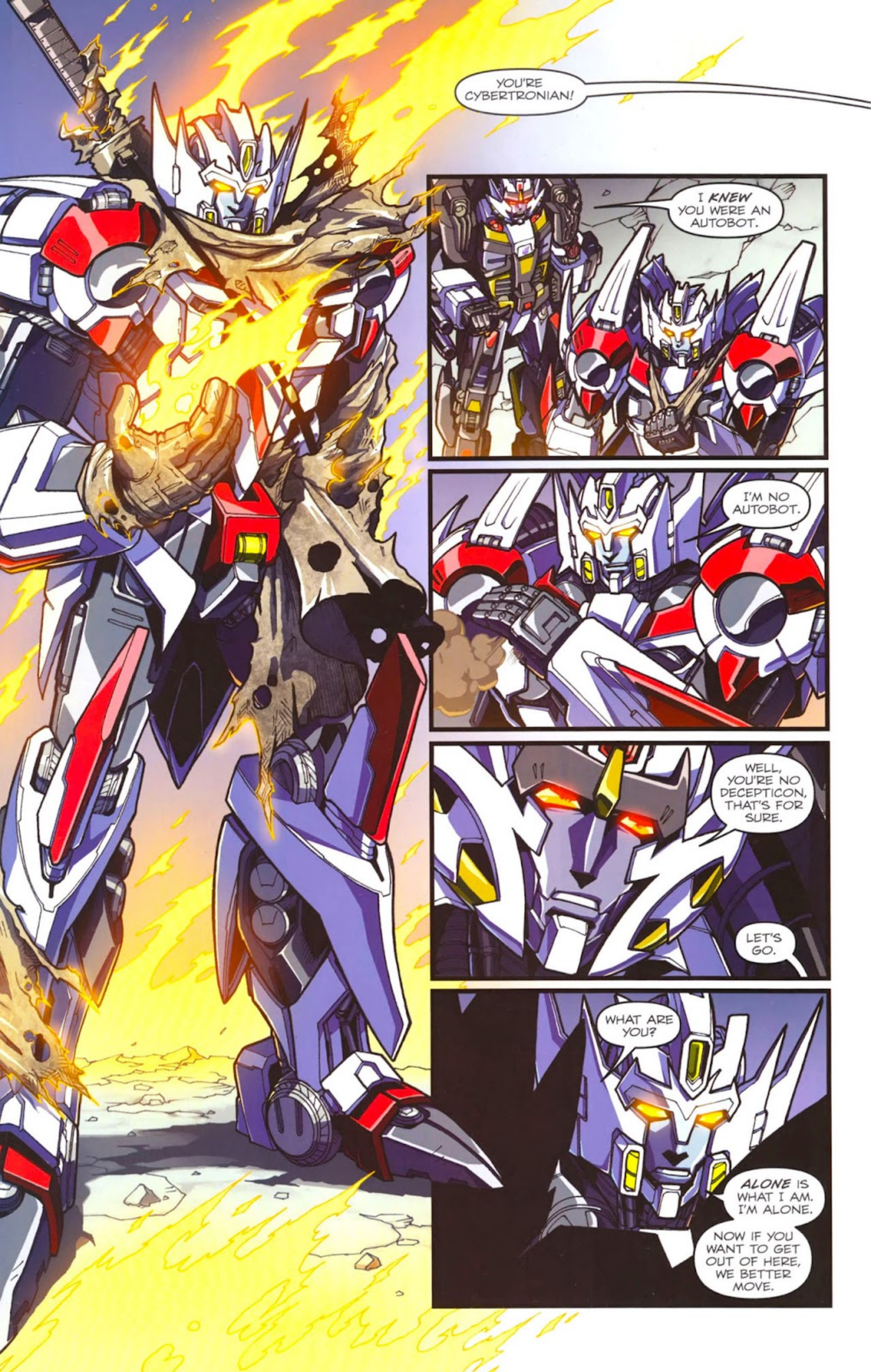
HELPING ANOTHER IS THE HIGHEST CALLING ONE CAN ASPIRE TO.

YOU SOUND LIKE AN AUTOBOT.
WHAT DOES AN AUTOBOT SOUND LIKE?

WEAK.


URK—




YOU'RE CYBERTRONIAN!
I KNEW YOU WERE AN AUTOBOT.
I'M NO AUTOBOT.
WELL, YOU'RE NO DECEPTICON, THAT'S FOR SURE.
LET'S GO.
WHAT ARE YOU?
ALONE IS WHAT I AM. I'M ALONE.
NOW IF YOU WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE, WE BETTER MOVE.

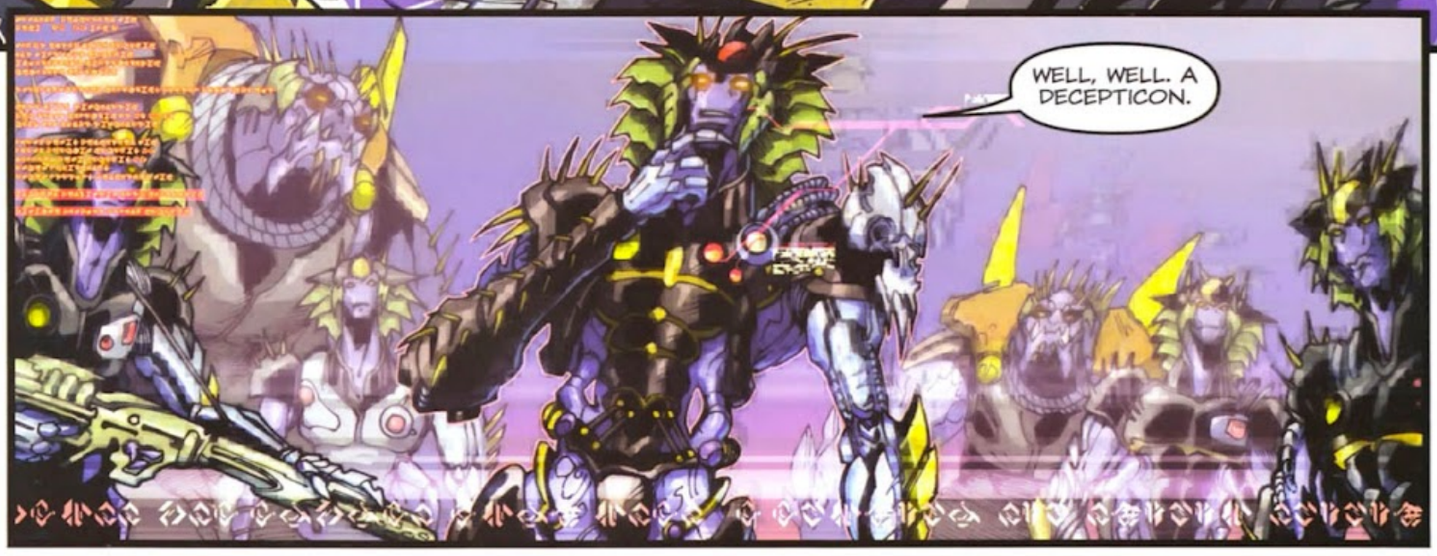
THE CAPTIVES ARE DIRECTLY BELOW US.
AND THE SHIP?
FAR END.
WHEN THE ALARM SOUNDS, YOU KEEP THEM BACK, I'LL OPEN THE CELLS.

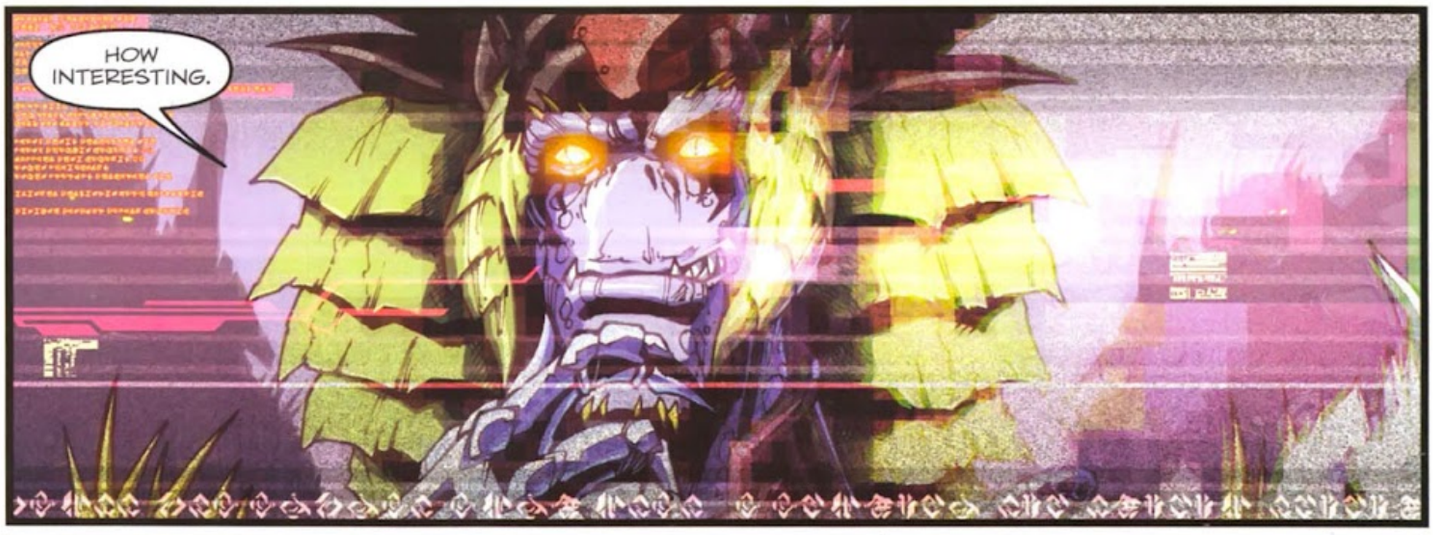
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
OLD MEMORIES. OLD NAMES.
DRIFT.
GOOD LUCK, DRIFT.

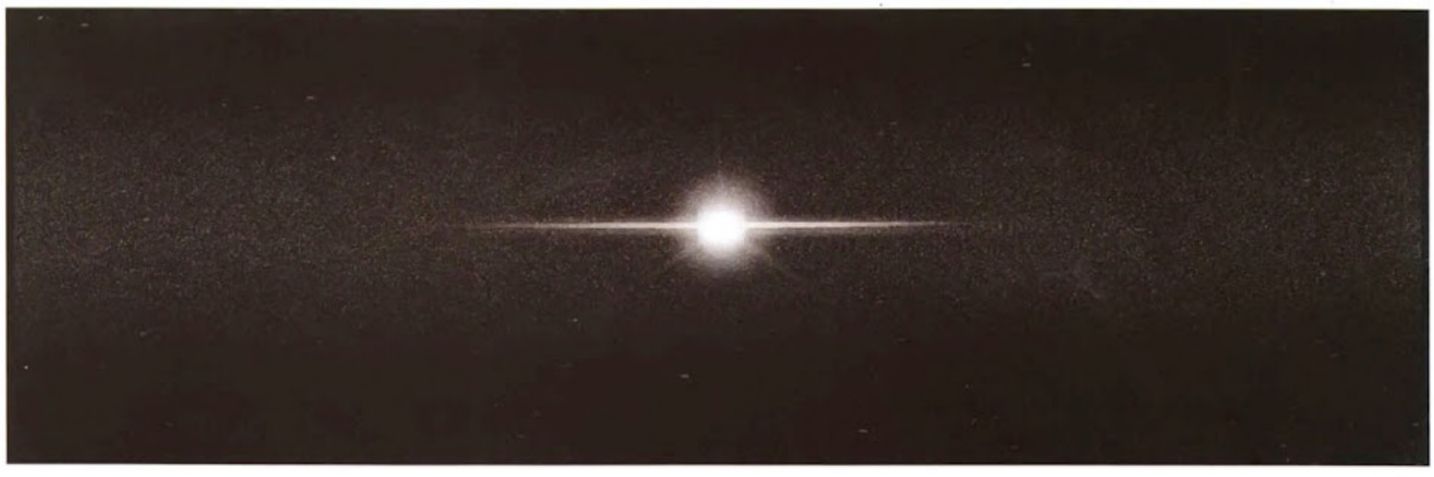
READY?
READY.

WOOP WOOP WOOP WOOP
ALARM! WE NEED TO HURRY!

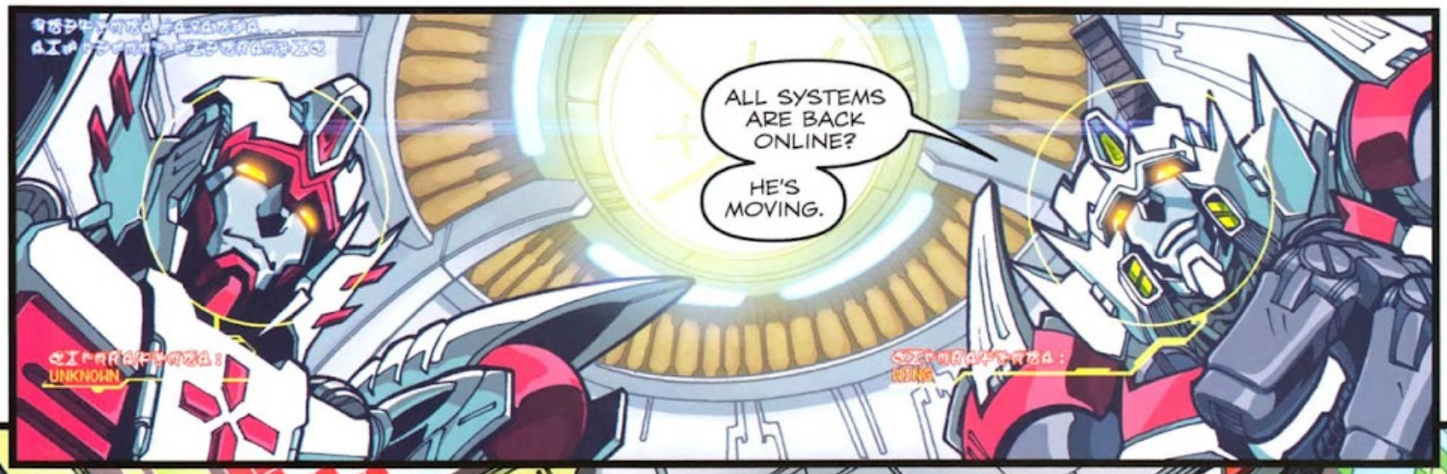
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

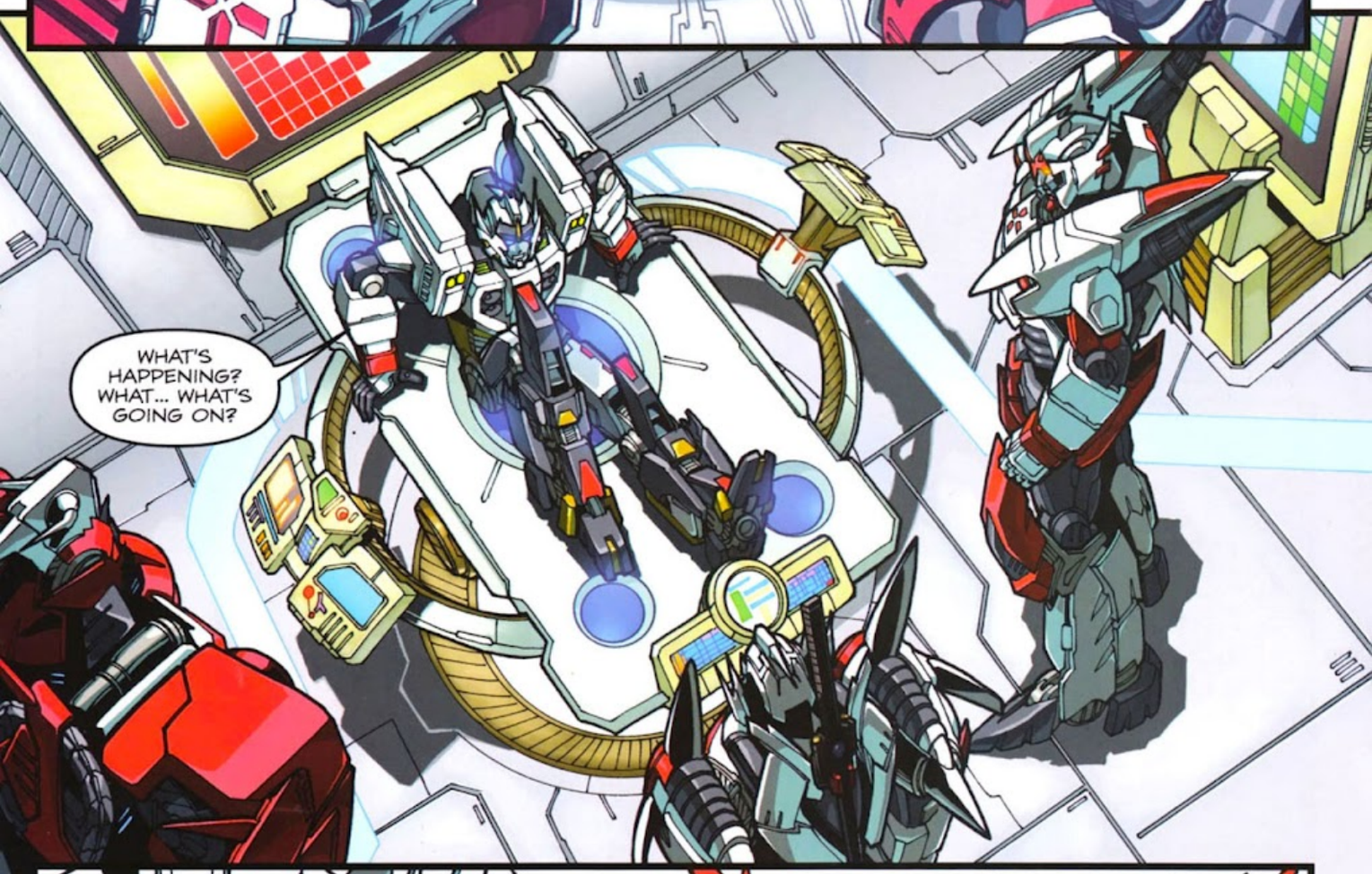

WELL, WELL. A DECEPTICON.


HOW INTERESTING.

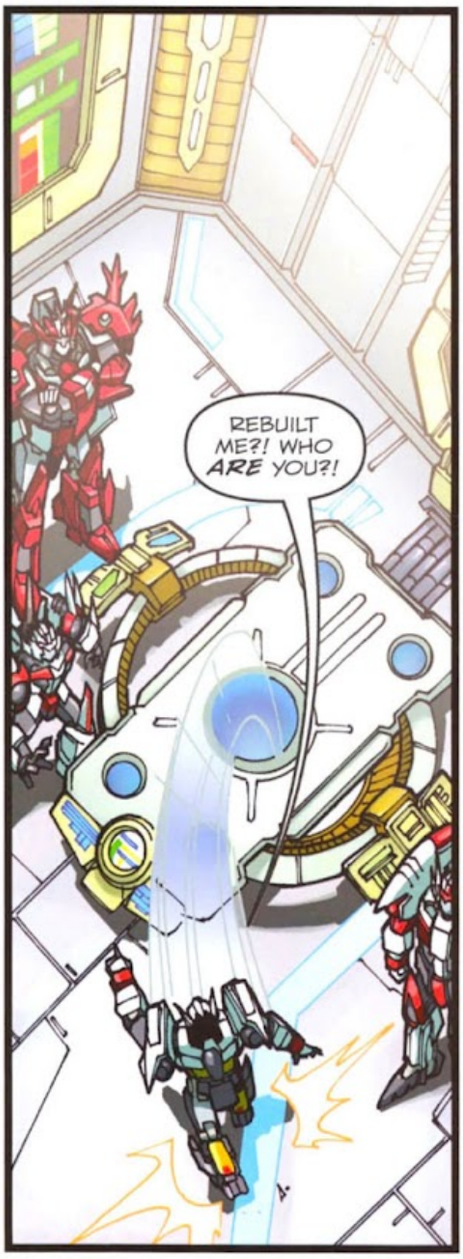


. . . WHERE AM I?


ALL SYSTEMS ARE BACK ONLINE?
HE'S MOVING.
UNKNOWN
UNK


WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT... WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOUR BODY WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED. ALMOST COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
WE REBUILT YOU, DECEPTICON. YOUR LIFE WAS SAVED.

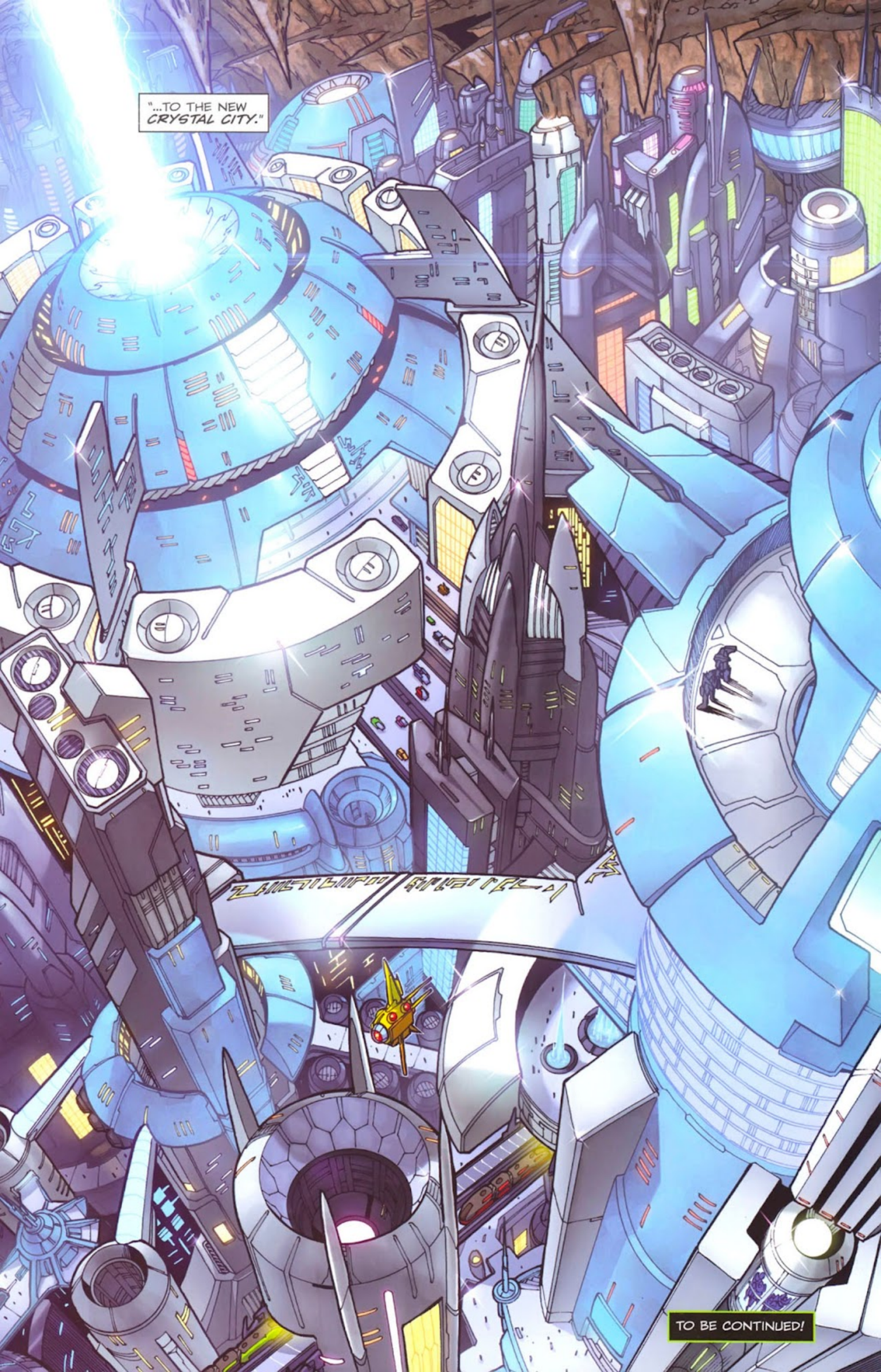

REBUILT ME?! WHO ARE YOU?!

IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE SAFE. I TOOK YOU OUT OF THERE. YOU WOULD HAVE DIED.

TOOK ME OUT OF THERE? TO WHERE? WHERE IS THIS...

...PLACE?

I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE SAFE. NO ONE WILL HARM YOU HERE.
WELCOME...


"...TO THE NEW CRYSTAL CITY."
TO BE CONTINUED!

IN TWO WEEKS:
ISSUE #2!

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# THE TRANSFORMERS DRIFT

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COLORS: JOSH PEREZ

STORY SO FAR...

Condemned to execution by the Decepticon Turmoil on charges of treason, Drift (at that point known as Deadlock) manages to escape to a nearby desert planet, leaving him stranded and alone.

After some time, Drift comes across a slave camp where he meets the enigmatic Wing, a disguised Cybertronian attempting to rescue the slaves. Wing offers Drift a way off the planet in exchange for his help in freeing the slaves. At the last minute, Drift betrays Wing in an attempt to flee the planet, but is confronted by the slavers and beaten to within an inch of his life.

Drift awakes to find himself repaired and in a hidden, underground Cybertronian city.

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Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Michael Kelly, Amie Lozanski, Val Roca, Ed Lane, Michael Provost, Erin Hillman, Samantha Lomow, and Michael Verrecchia for their invaluable assistance.

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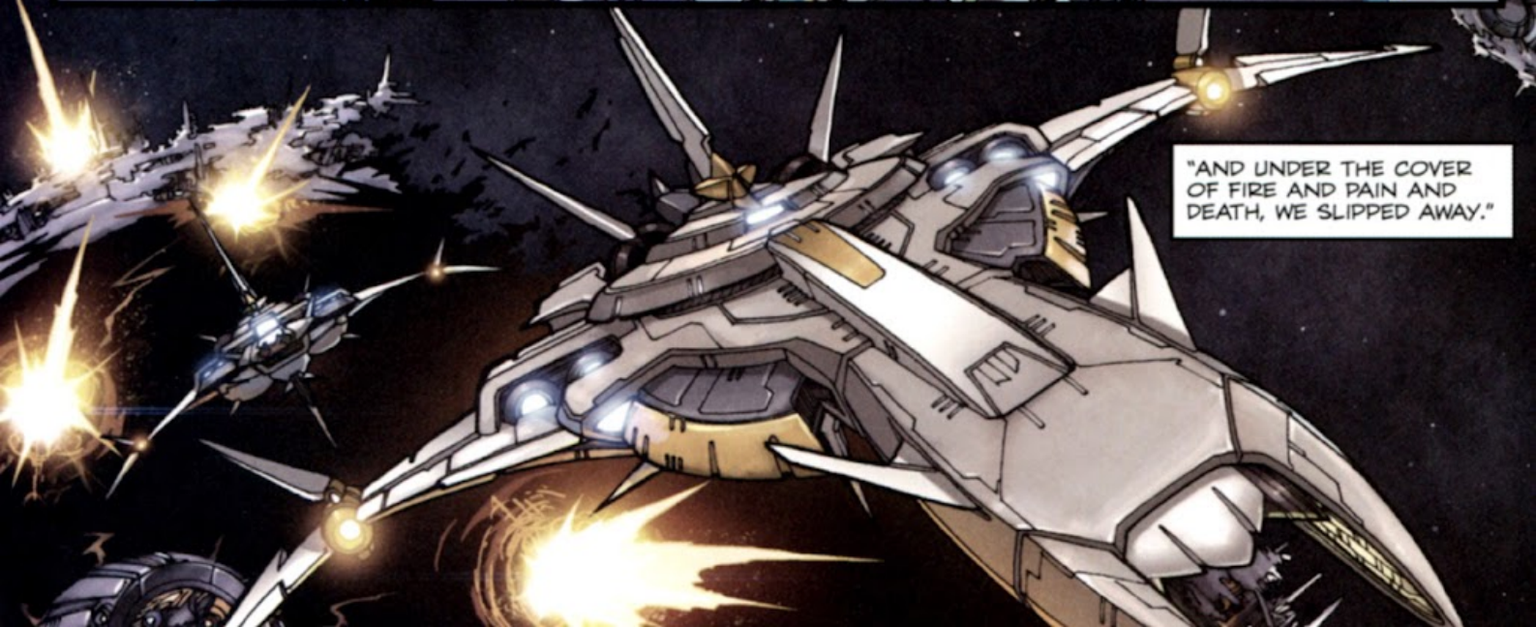
"IT WAS MORE HORRIFIC THAN WE COULD EVER HAVE ANTICIPATED.

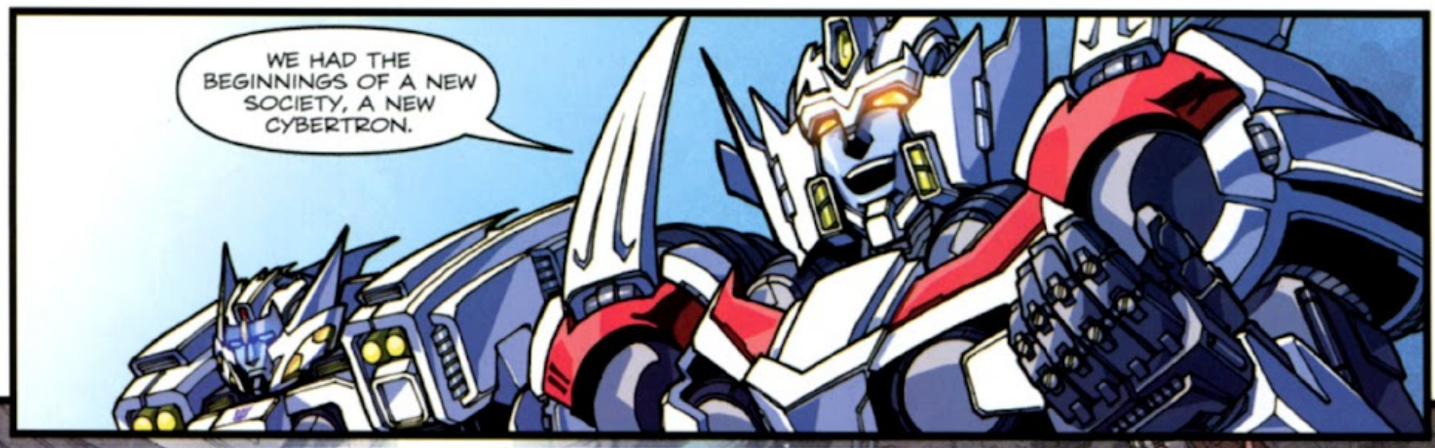
"TWO FACTIONS AT WAR.
"AND SO MANY EAGER TO CHOOSE SIDES.

"BEFORE LONG, THE PLANET WAS ENGULFED AND THOSE REFUSING TO TAKE PART HAD LITTLE HOPE OF SURVIVAL.

"THE CIRCLE OF LIGHT WAS CONVENED.
"THE DECISION WAS MADE.


"AND UNDER THE COVER OF FIRE AND PAIN AND DEATH, WE SLIPPED AWAY."

"TO BEGIN WITH, WE DIDN'T GO FAR.
"BUT WHEN THE WAR SPREAD OUT TO OTHER PLANETS AND SYSTEMS, WE REALIZED WE'D HAVE TO TAKE MORE EXTREME MEASURES.
"WE FOUND SOMEWHERE NEW, SOMEWHERE INCONSPICUOUS AND HIDDEN...
"...UNDERGROUND."


WE HAD THE BEGINNINGS OF A NEW SOCIETY, A NEW CYBERTRON.

"THOSE WHO CHOSE TO COME WITH US WERE MOSTLY SCHOLARS AND SCIENTISTS.
"THE REST WERE THOSE FLEEING FOR THEIR LIVES, NOT WISHING TO TAKE UP ARMS IN AN IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE."

"IDEOLOGICAL"?
WE WERE AT WAR FOR THE FUTURE OF CYBERTRON. WE ARE AT WAR FOR—
YOUR WAR DAMNED THE FUTURE OF CYBERTRON.

SO I SHOULD HAVE RUN? CRAWLED OFF TO LIVE UNDERGROUND IN A CITY OF COWARDS?

WE RESCUED THOUSANDS AND TOOK ACTION TO PROTECT WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE CYBERTRONIAN WAY OF LIFE.

LOOK AROUND YOU. THIS IS NO MERE *CITY*, THIS IS A *UTOPIA*.

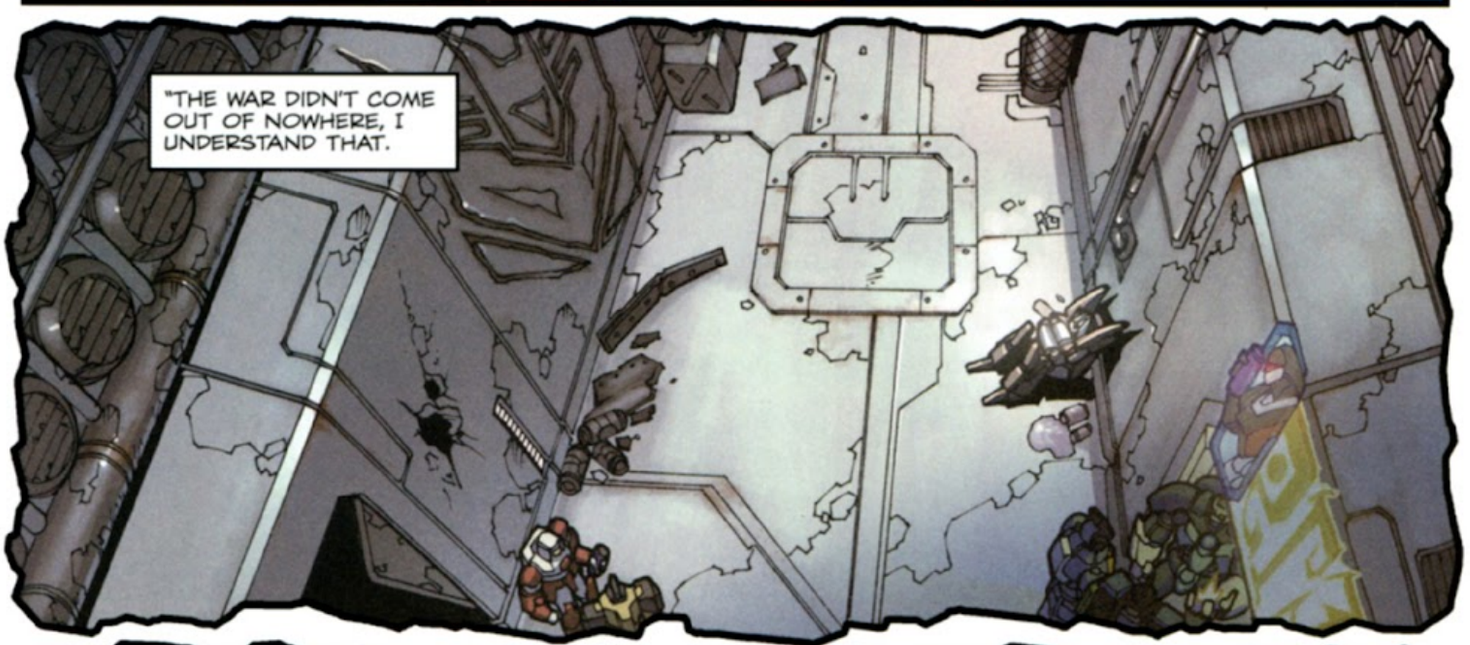
"NO SICKNESS, NO POVERTY, NO ONE FORGOTTEN TO FALL BETWEEN THE CRACKS."

WHAT IS IT YOU'RE ACTUALLY FIGHTING FOR? WHAT IS IT THAT CONVINCED YOU TO TAKE UP ARMS?

YOU'RE NO RUN-OF-THE-MILL BRUTE. YOU BELIEVE IN SOMETHING, I CAN SEE IT.
YOU SEE NOTHING.

CYBERTRON WAS FALLING APART BEFORE THE WAR. OUR SOCIETY WAS SICK AND BLOATED AND ROTTEN.
DO YOU REMEMBER?

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS? BECAUSE FOR SOME, IT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE.


"THE WAR DIDN'T COME OUT OF NOWHERE, I UNDERSTAND THAT.

"BUT COULD YOU EVER HAVE IMAGINED ANYTHING LIKE THIS?

"AN END TO SUFFERING, TO STRUGGLING.
"A PEACEFUL CITY WHERE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND."

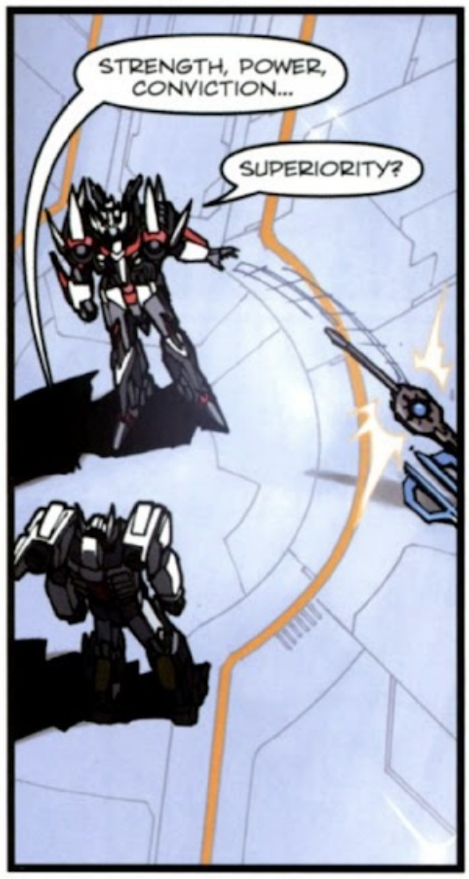
TELL ME, DECEPTICON, WHAT DO YOU THINK? DO YOU WANT TO DESTROY *THIS*, TOO?

YOU HAD NO RIGHT BRINGING A DECEPTICON HERE, WING!
LET ALONE REVEALING YOURSELF TO THE SLAVERS.
HE WAS IN NEED, DAI ATLAS, AS WERE THE PRISONERS IN THAT CAMP.
HE IS A DECEPTICON.
HE'S ONE OF OUR KIND.
DECEPTICONS ARE NOT "OUR KIND"!
SO, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF PREACHING AGAINST FACTIONS, WE'VE CREATED OUR OWN, IS THAT IT?
WE ARE THE CIRCLE OF LIGHT, THE GUARDIANS OF CYBERTRON'S ANCIENT CULTURE.
YOU KNOW OUR LAWS, WE MUST NOT INVOLVE OURSELVES WITH ANY OUTSIDERS! NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PRESERVING WHAT WE HAVE HERE!
AT WHAT COST? OUR OWN COMPASSION?
THOSE PRISONERS NEED US. HE NEEDS US.
IF HE GOES TO THE SURFACE, THEY'LL KILL HIM.

HIS WAYS COULD INFLUENCE OUR PEOPLE, WING.
HIS VERY PRESENCE COULD POTENTIALLY BRING MORE DECEPTICONS HERE AND WITH THEM THE WAR WE'VE FOUGHT SO LONG TO AVOID.
VIOLENCE IS THEIR ONLY LANGUAGE.
IF HE BETRAYS US, IF HE DESTROYS WHAT WE HAVE HERE, THE BURDEN WILL BE YOURS AND YOURS ALONE.
FOR NOW THE DECEPTICON IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. YOU WILL STAY WITH HIM AT ALL TIMES.
AND HE IS NOT TO BE EXPOSED TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY.
HE WON'T BETRAY US. I KNOW HE WON'T.
AND HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY GUARANTEE THAT?

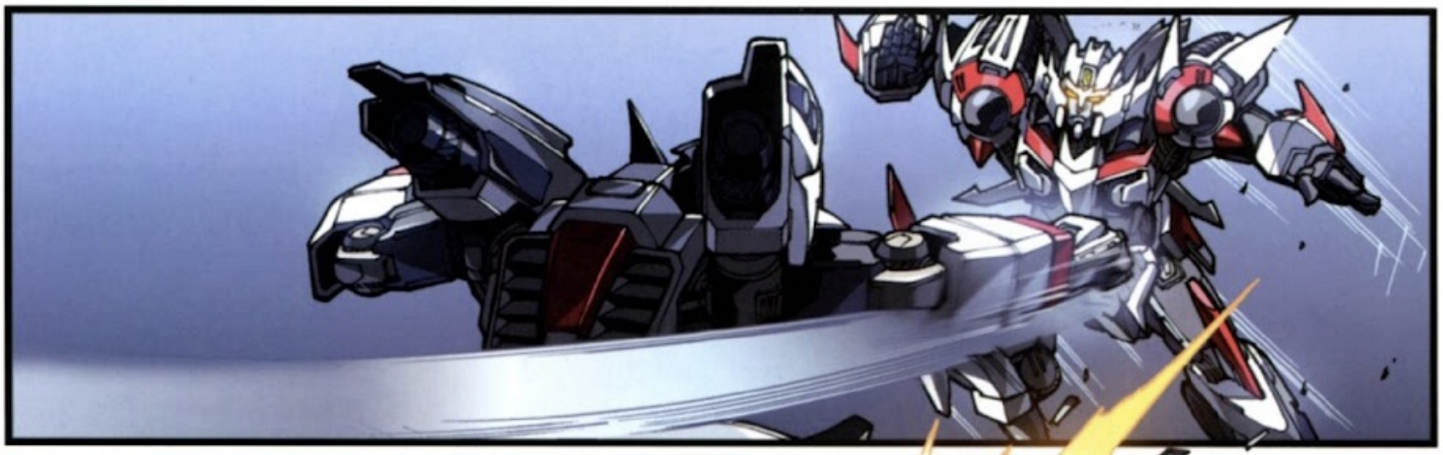
TROUBLE IN PARADISE?
FOLLOW ME.

WHAT DOES THIS STAND FOR?
IT'S THE SYMBOL OF THE DECEPTICONS, YOU KNOW WHAT—
WHAT DOES IT *MEAN?*


STRENGTH, POWER, CONVICTION...
SUPERIORITY?

SO, YOU'RE THE BEST THEN—THE STRONGEST—AND BECAUSE OF THAT YOU SHOULD RULE?
YES.

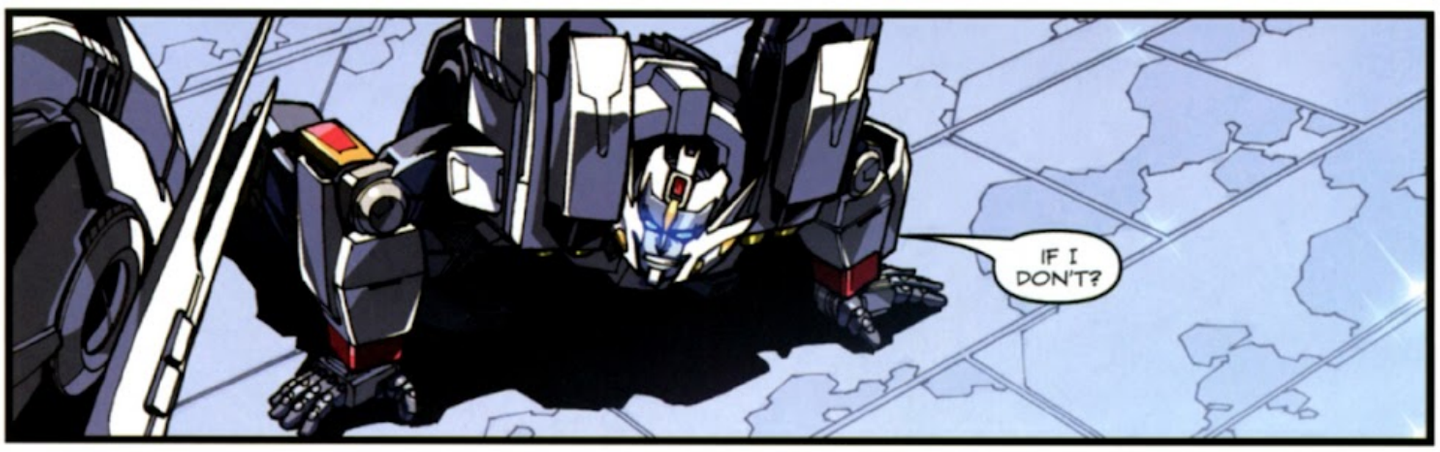
PROVE IT.
NO GUNS, NO SWORDS.
PROVE IT.



PROVE IT.

WE'RE GOING TO DO THIS EVERY DAY. EVERY DAY, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO PROVE ME WRONG.

IF YOU BEAT ME, YOU'RE FREE TO WALK OUT OF HERE.
IF YOU DON'T...

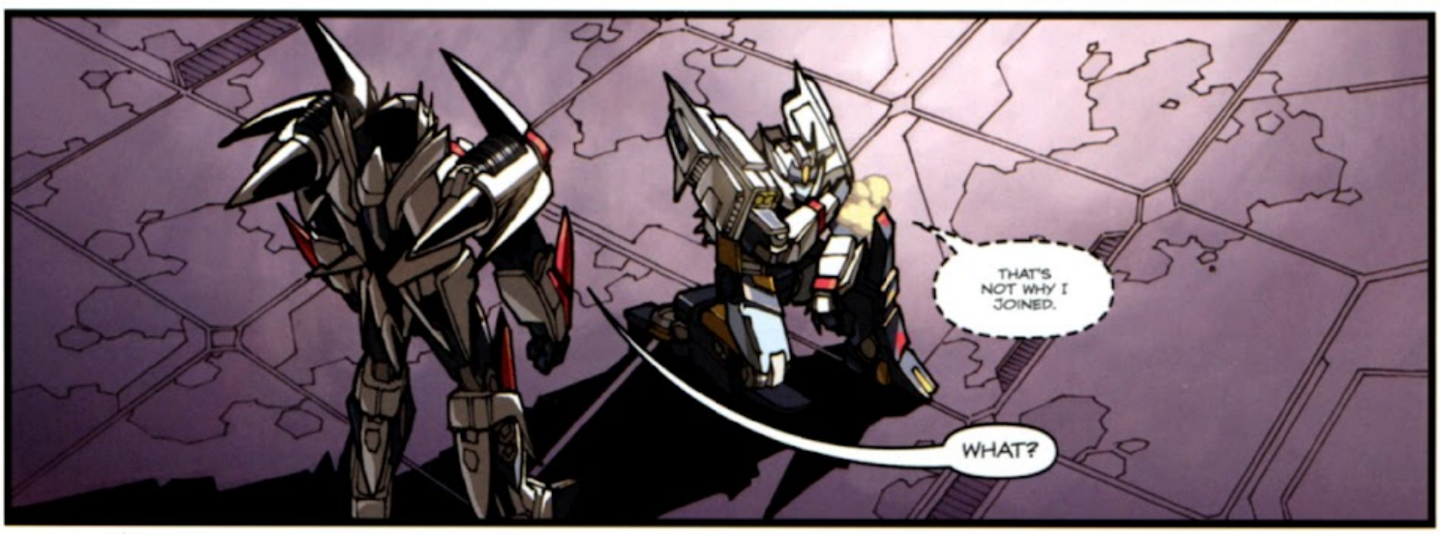

IF I DON'T?

YOU'RE HERE FOREVER.
AND YOU HAVEN'T?
SOME DEAL, YOU'VE HAD YEARS OF TRAINING.
NOT WITHOUT A GUN.

SO LEARN, DECEPTICON.

TOO SLOW.
WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR WEEKS, YOU'RE *STILL* TOO OBVIOUS WITH YOUR ATTACKS. *HIDE* YOUR INTENTIONS.

COME ON, DRIFT, WHERE'S ALL THAT DECEPTICON POWER AND SUPERIORITY?
IF YOU WANT TO CONQUER THE GALAXY, YOU NEED TO TRY HARDER THAN *THAT*.

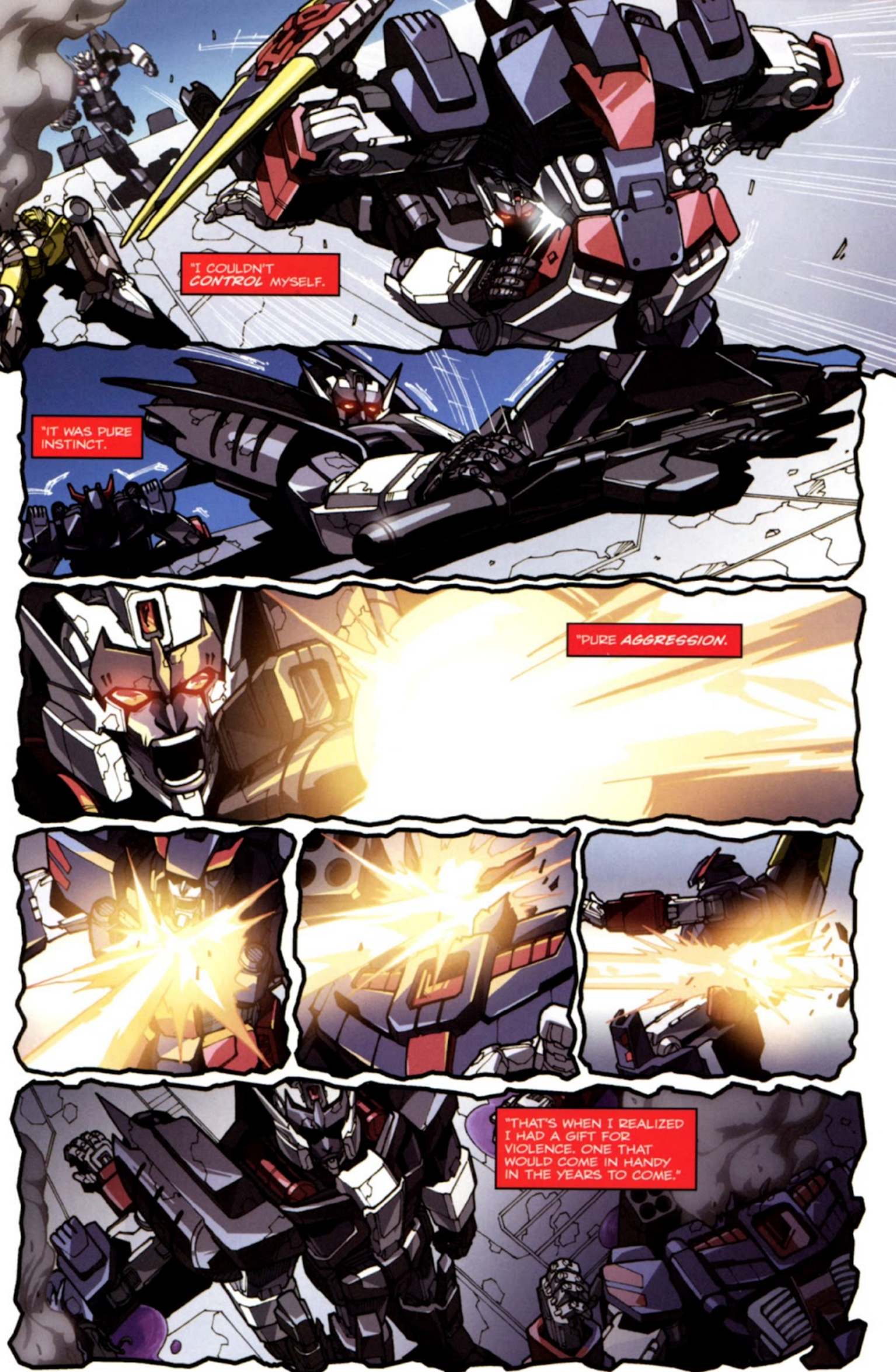

THAT'S NOT WHY I JOINED.
WHAT?

THAT'S *NOT* WHY I *JOINED!*

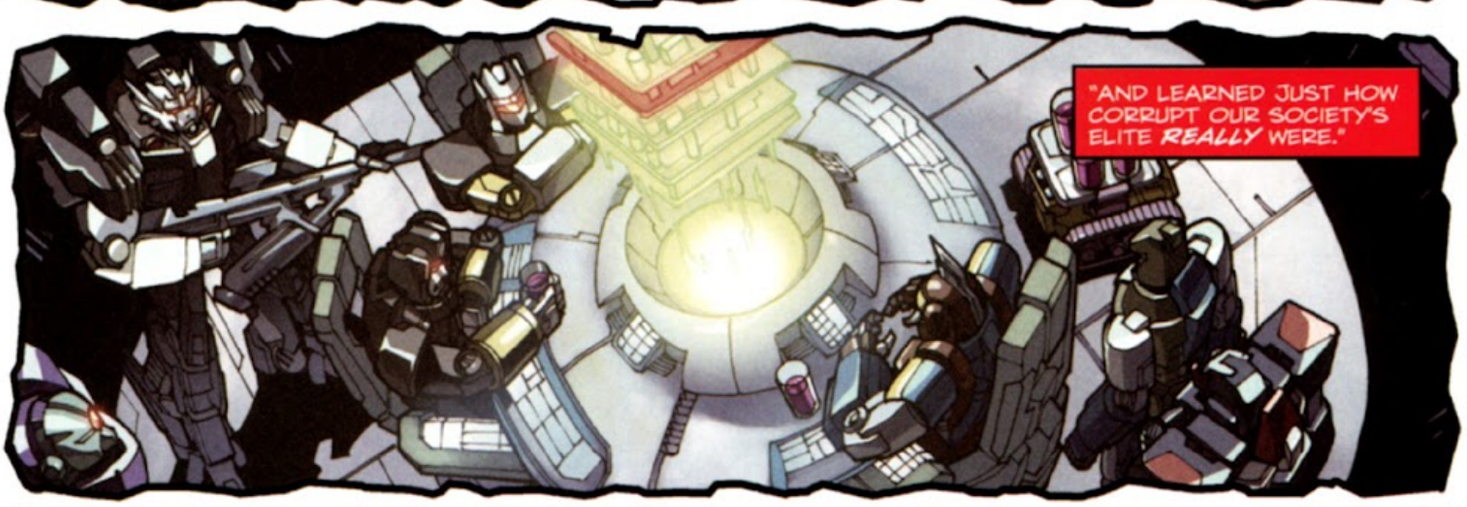
I DIDN'T JOIN TO *"CONQUER"* ANYTHING.
I WAS *ALONE, DISCARDED* ON THE STREET WHEN I WAS FOUND, WHEN HE TOOK ME IN.
MEGATRON?
NO...

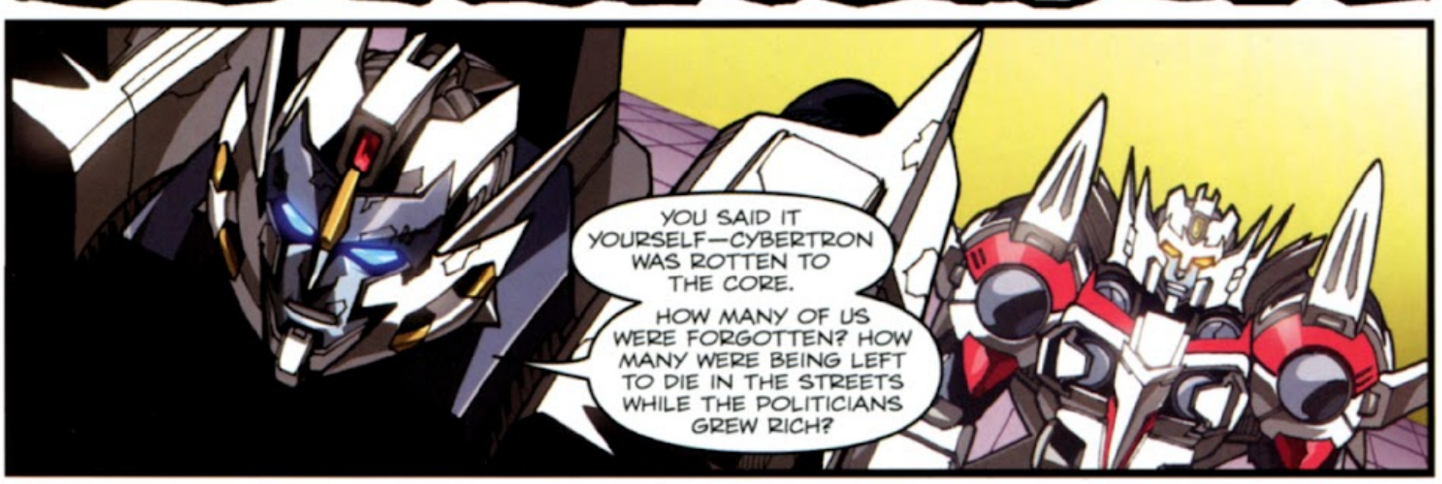
"...GASKET.
"HE WAS A LOT LIKE YOU, ANNOYINGLY OPTIMISTIC.
"HE BANDED US TOGETHER, GAVE US HOPE AND KEPT US ALIVE.
"WE WERE THE CITY'S REFUSE, NO ONE CARED IF WE LIVED OR DIED.
"THEY ONLY CARED WHEN WE STOLE THEIR PRECIOUS ENERGON.
"WE WERE STEALING TO LIVE, BUT THAT DIDN'T MATTER. IT NEVER MATTERED TO THEM."
CALM DOWN, DRIFT. WE STEAL. WE BREAK THE LAW. AS FAR AS THE SYSTEM IS CONCERNED, WE'RE THE BAD GUYS.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR THEIR CORRUPT SYSTEM, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO LOOK OUT FOR OURSELVES.
WELL, ONE DAY WE MIGHT —WHOA!

HEY! COME ON, THERE'S NO NEED TO—
BACK OFF!
HEY!
DON'T!
CHOOM
NO!


"I COULDN'T CONTROL MYSELF.
"IT WAS PURE INSTINCT.
"PURE AGGRESSION.
"THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED I HAD A GIFT FOR VIOLENCE. ONE THAT WOULD COME IN HANDY IN THE YEARS TO COME."

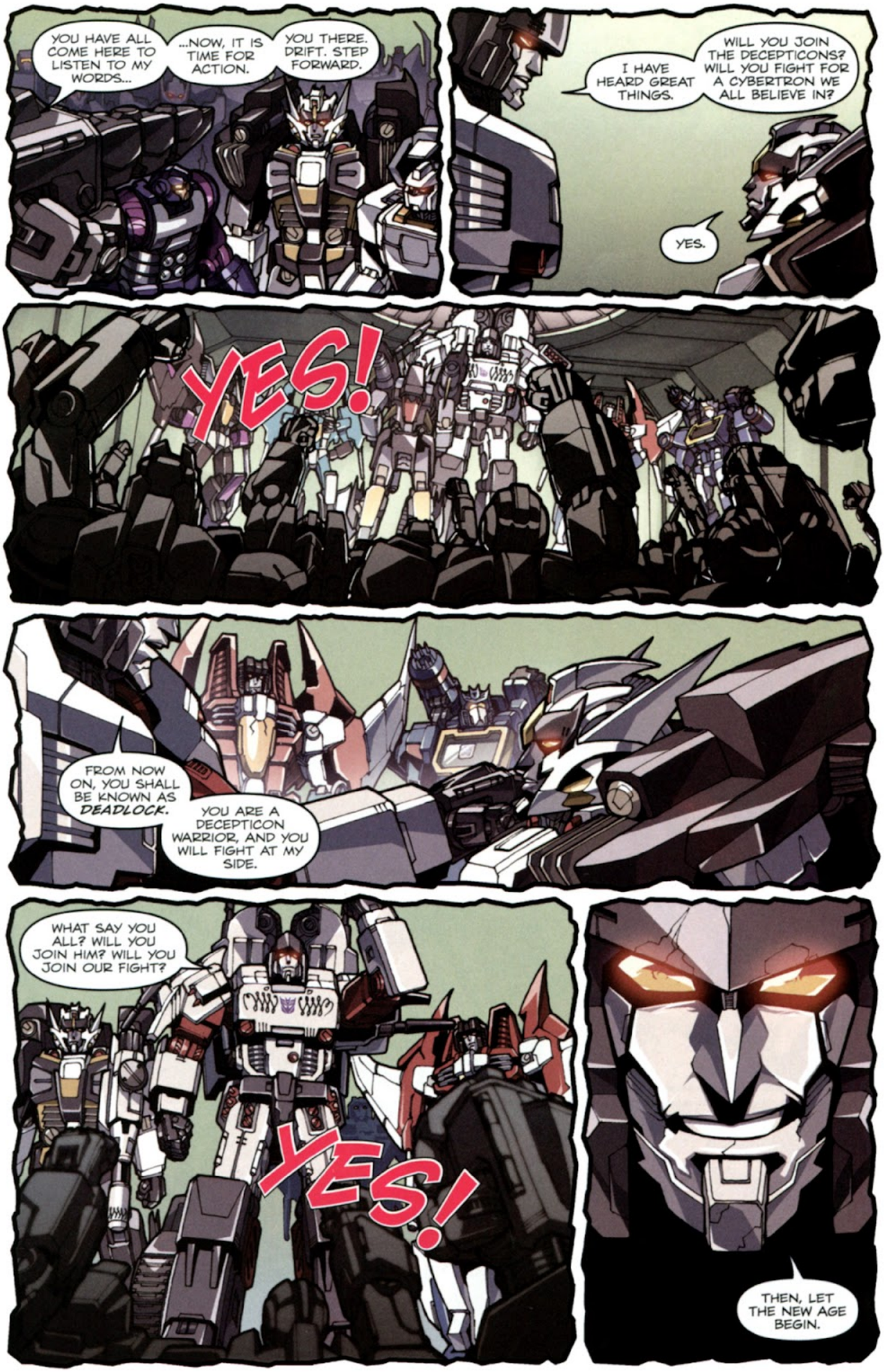
"I WAS FORCED INTO HIDING.
"BUT IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE NEWS OF MY ACTIONS REACHED CYBERTRON'S UNDERWORLD.
"I WAS TRAINED, PUT TO GOOD USE.


"AND LEARNED JUST HOW CORRUPT OUR SOCIETY'S ELITE *REALLY* WERE."


YOU SAID IT YOURSELF—CYBERTRON WAS ROTTEN TO THE CORE.
HOW MANY OF US WERE FORGOTTEN? HOW MANY WERE BEING LEFT TO DIE IN THE STREETS WHILE THE POLITICIANS GREW RICH?

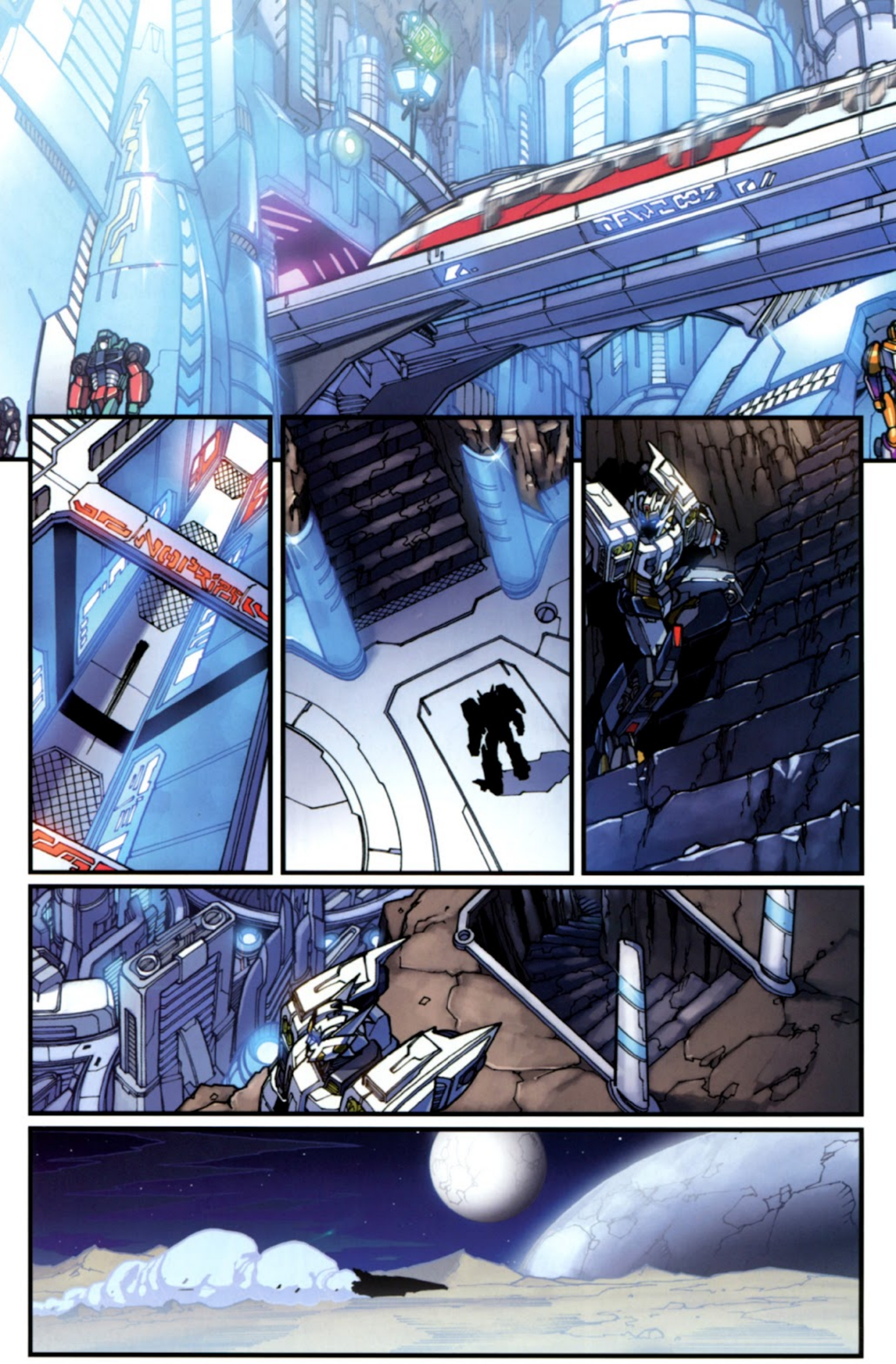
SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE. SOMEONE HAD TO MAKE A STAND.
THERE WAS ANOTHER WAY.
*NO*, THERE WAS *NO* OTHER WAY.

"HE MADE ME SEE THAT."
WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN A WAR, THAT'S SOMETHING THEY WANT.
ALL WE DESIRE IS EQUALITY, AN END TO AN UNJUST RULE...
...AND PEACE ACROSS CYBERTRON.
BUT THEY WON'T HAVE IT. THEY FIGHT US AT EVERY TURN.
CRUSHING THEIR HEELS DOWN UPON OUR HEADS UNTIL WE'RE BACK WHERE THEY WANT US—ON OUR KNEES.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TO RISE UP AND SEIZE WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS.
WE MUST RULE SO THAT JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL.
WE MUST RULE BECAUSE OUR VOICE IS THE TRUE VOICE OF CYBERTRON.
WE ARE THE REAL HEART OF THIS NATION. WE ARE THE STRONG, THE POWERFUL, AND THE JUST.
OUR TIME HAS COME.


YOU HAVE ALL COME HERE TO LISTEN TO MY WORDS...
...NOW, IT IS TIME FOR ACTION.
YOU THERE. DRIFT. STEP FORWARD.
I HAVE HEARD GREAT THINGS.
WILL YOU JOIN THE DECEPTICONS? WILL YOU FIGHT FOR A CYBERTRON WE ALL BELIEVE IN?
YES.
YES!
FROM NOW ON, YOU SHALL BE KNOWN AS DEADLOCK.
YOU ARE A DECEPTICON WARRIOR, AND YOU WILL FIGHT AT MY SIDE.
WHAT SAY YOU ALL? WILL YOU JOIN HIM? WILL YOU JOIN OUR FIGHT?
YES!
THEN, LET THE NEW AGE BEGIN.

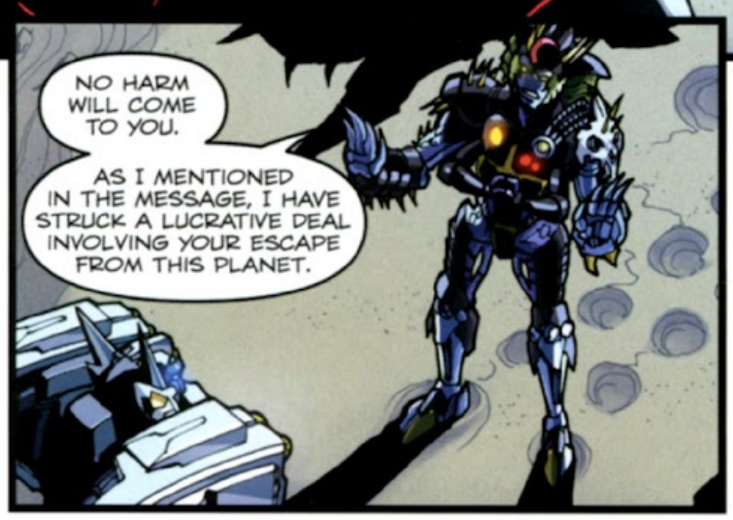
BUT CAN'T YOU SEE? LOOK WHERE IT GOT US, LOOK WHAT IT DID TO CYBERTRON.
THE OLD WAYS WEREN'T WORKING. WE NEEDED A NEW SYSTEM, A NEW ORDER.
BUT NOT THROUGH WAR AND KILLING.
YOU SAY THERE WASN'T ANOTHER WAY, YET WE FOUND IT.
EQUALITY AND PEACE ALL AROUND YOU.
THIS CITY HOLDS EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED.
YOUR SPARK MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN THE RIGHT PLACE, BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE YOU LOST YOUR WAY.
MEGATRON USED YOU, ALL OF YOU.
BUT UNLIKE THE REST, YOU'VE GOT A SECOND CHANCE.

WING, COME TO THE CONTROL ROOM IMMEDIATELY.
BRING THE DECEPTICON WITH YOU.
WE'RE PICKING UP A WIDESPREAD TRANSMISSION.
NOT SURE FROM WHERE EXACTLY.
AND IT'S IN CODE.
ANY IDEA WHAT IT SAYS, AXE?
NONE.
WE WERE OF THE OPINION YOU COULD HELP.
ME? NO.
I'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT IT SAYS.



YOU LOOK DIFFERENT, DECEPTICON.
UPGRADES?

I'M GLAD YOU FELT YOU COULD TRUST US.
I CAN IMAGINE YOU MUSTN'T HAVE FELT VERY SAFE AFTER OUR LAST MEETING.


NO HARM WILL COME TO YOU.
AS I MENTIONED IN THE MESSAGE, I HAVE STRUCK A LUCRATIVE DEAL INVOLVING YOUR ESCAPE FROM THIS PLANET.

HOW DID YOU DO THAT? HOW DID YOU USE DECEPTICON ENCODING IN YOUR MESSAGE?

THAT? WELL, IT SEEMS THIS LITTLE PLANET IS BECOMING QUITE POPULAR WITH YOUR KIND...

LOCKDOWN!
DEADLOCK.
MEGATRON IS... DISPLEASED.
BUT FIRST WE HAVE A DEAL, LOCKDOWN. THIS DECEPTICON WILL GIVE ME THE LOCATION OF HIS NEW FRIENDS...
...OR HE WILL NEVER LEAVE THIS PLANET ALIVE.
TO BE CONTINUED!

IN TWO WEEKS:
ISSUE #3!

IDWORDS
News from the nerve center of IDW Publishing

# IDW PUBLISHING IN SEPTEMBER: COUNTING DOWN

Dispatches from IDW's Chief Creative Officer, Chris Ryall

As kids across the land prepare for the new school year beginning this month, they arm themselves with all the proper tools—pens and paper, iPads and cellphones, a backpack and… a Machete?

Well, maybe not that last one. But while school metal detectors might block you from carrying an actual machete into class, we fully encourage you carrying a copy of *Machete* into school. That is, the new comic we're doing in tandem with filmmaker and *Machete* creator **Robert Rodriguez**. The #0 issue releasing this month leads directly into the new movie, and is scripted by Rodriguez and **Aaron Kaufman**. In the issue, learn just who managed to "piss off the wrong Mexican," and what led Machete to pick up the blades in the first place. *Death Ship*'s **Stuart Sayger** is handling the art for the issue, under menacing covers by **Zach Howard** and **Juan Doe**.

We're also aiming to be Number One with a Bullet in September with an all-new weekly issue that ships every week of September, even the fifth "skip" week.

Actually, I guess it's more accurate to say we're looking to be Number One through Five with five bullets, in the form of *5 Days to Die*! This fast-paced crime tale comes from writer **Andy Schmidt** and artist **Chee**, and features covers by some of the biggest names in comics: **David Finch** (#1); **Mike Oeming** (#2); **Ben Templesmith** (#3); **Gabriel Dell'Otto** (#4) and **Pablo Raimondi** (#5).

Also shipping on a more frequent schedule this month is a new TRANSFORMERS miniseries, DRIFT. Drift, a character introduced in *All Hail Megatron*, recently became the first IDW Transformers character to be turned into an actual toy, and now the sword-wielding 'bot is the star of his own four-part bi-weekly miniseries. Written by *AHM* scribe **Shane McCarthy** and featuring fan-favorite **Alex Milne** on art—with variant covers by the artist/co-creator **Guido Guidi**, Drift delves into the character's backstory and really explains how the former-Decepticon-turned-Autobot came to be.

See the full list below to see what else we're springing on you this fall: a career pictorial overview of artist **Jim Starlin**'s cosmic odysseys; Dean Haspiel's autobiographical exploits, **J. Scott Campbell**'s 12 months of fairy-tale reimagining's, a certain spinach-eating sailor's book, and much more.

I'll see you next month for a slew of Halloween-related titles Have a good 30 days!

IDW

## SEPTEMBER RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

### COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS

5 Days to Die #1
5 Days to Die #2
5 Days to Die #3
5 Days to Die #4
5 Days to Die #5
(Weekly Books)

Angel #37
Doctor Who #15
Dragon Age #5
Eternal Descent #4
G.I. Joe #22
G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero #158
G.I. Joe: Cobra #8
G.I. Joe: Cobra Special #2
G.I. Joe: Hearts and Minds #5
G.I. Joe: Origins #19
Jurassic Park #4
Kill Shakespeare #5
Kodiak one-shot
Last Unicorn #4
Machete #0
Midnight Movie: It, The Terror From Beyond Space #3
The Murder of King Tut #4
Mystery Society #4

Phoenix Without Ashes #2
Spike: The Devil You Know #4
Star Trek: Burden of Knowledge #4
Star Trek: Captain's Log: Pike one-shot
Starstruck #13
Strange Science Fantasy #3
Transformers #11
Transformers: Drift #1
Transformers: Drift #2
(Bi-Weekly Books)
Transformers: Sector 7 #1
True Blood #3

### GRAPHIC NOVELS
### ART BOOKS • SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Amazing True Stories: Ellis Island TPB
Angel: Barbary Coast TPB
Archie: Best of Stan Goldberg TPB
Army of Two, Vol. 1 TPB
Art of Jim Starlin HC • S&N HC
Blondie, Vol. 1 HC
Bram Stoker's Death Ship TPB
G.I. Joe: Operation Hiss TPB
Graphic New York Presents Dean Haspiel-The Early Years
Grimm's Fairy Tales TPB
IDW Double Feature: Belles of the Bayou TPB
J. Scott Campbell's Fairytale Fantasies 2011 Calendar
Li'L Abner, Vol. 2 HC
Lone Justice, Vol. 1 TPB
Popeye: The Best Comic Book Stories of Bud Sagendorf HC
Singularity 7–New Printing TPB
Tank Girl: The Royal Escape TPB
Top 100 Horror Movies TPB
Transformers IDW Collection Vol. 2 HC
We Will Bury You TPB
Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper TPB

Comments, questions, suggestions, complaints, gripes, etc., are appreciated. Feel free to send any correspondence to letters@idwpublishing.com or IDWords, 5080 Santa Fe Street, San Diego, CA 92109. You can also join in the hullabaloo on our message boards at idwpublishing.com.

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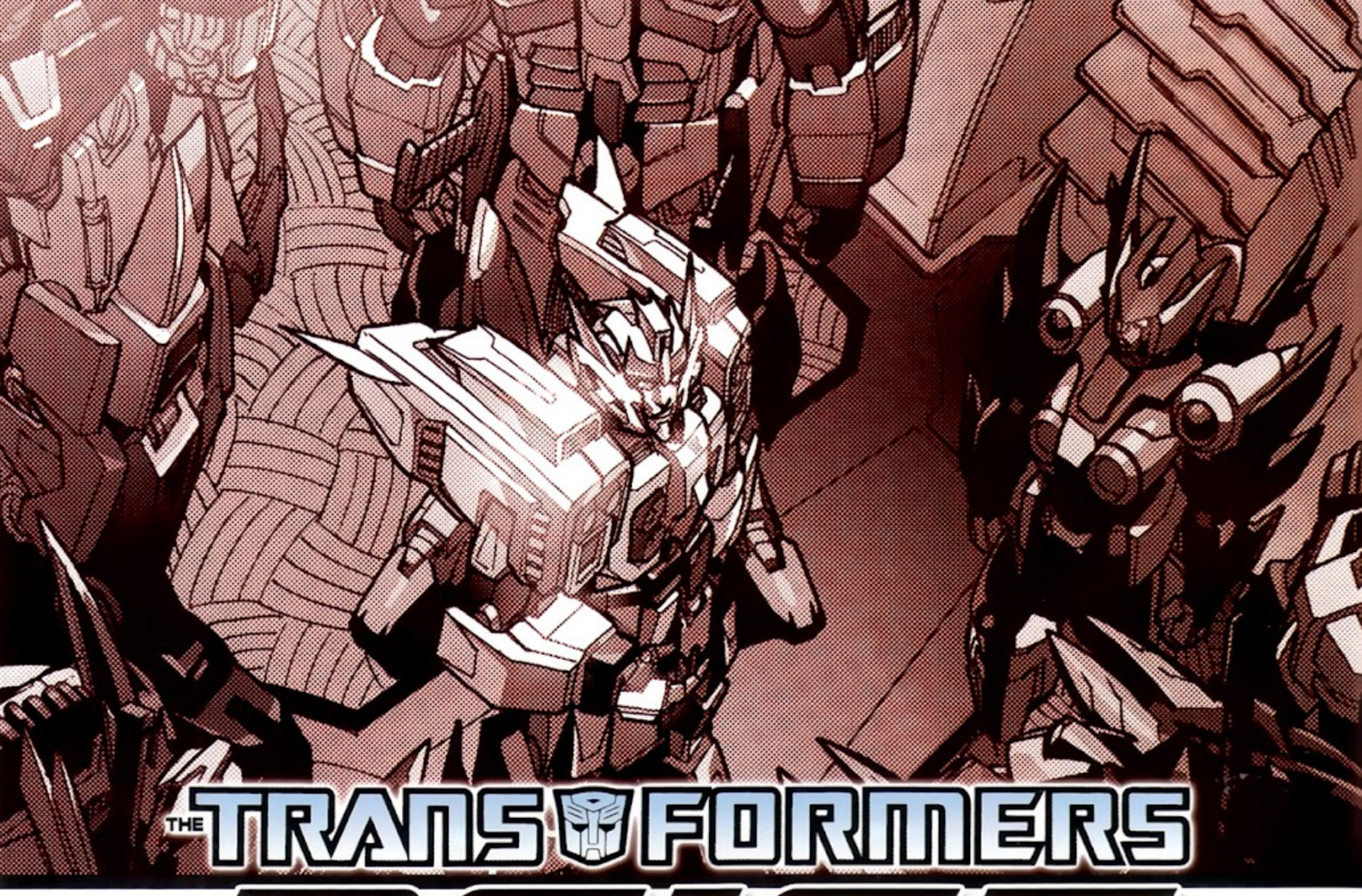
Cover by Alex Milne



# THE TRANSFORMERS DRIFT

## ISSUE #3 CREDITS

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*Art by: ALEX MILNE*

*Colors by: JOSH PEREZ*

*Letters by: CHRIS MOWRY*

*Editor: DENTON J. TIPTON*

*Consulting Editor: ANDY SCHMIDT*

COVER CHECKLIST:

**STANDARD COVER**
ART: ALEX MILNE
COLORS: JOSH PEREZ

**RI COVER**
ART: GUIDO GUIDI
COLORS: JOSH PEREZ

STORY SO FAR...

As he spends more time with Wing and the Knights in the hidden city, Drift begins to dwell on his past. Once lost and alone on the streets of Cybertron, Drift was eventually drafted into the Decepticon cause with promises of a new level of equality for all Cybertronians. The years of battle were a blur until Drift had nearly forgotten what he was fighting for.

In the peaceful surrounds of the new Crystal City, Drift learns to question his ideals while mastering new skills in personal combat. This harmony is shattered when the Knights intercept a coded message, one only Drift can understand.

Drift slips out of the city to discover that the Decepticon hunter Lockdown has found him and struck a deal with the Slavers. Drift must lead the Knights into an ambush if he ever hopes to leave the planet alive...

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Special thanks to Hasbro's Aaron Archer, Michael Kelly, Amie Lozanski, Val Roca, Ed Lane, Michael Provost, Erin Hillman, Samantha Lomow, and Michael Verrecchia for their invaluable assistance.

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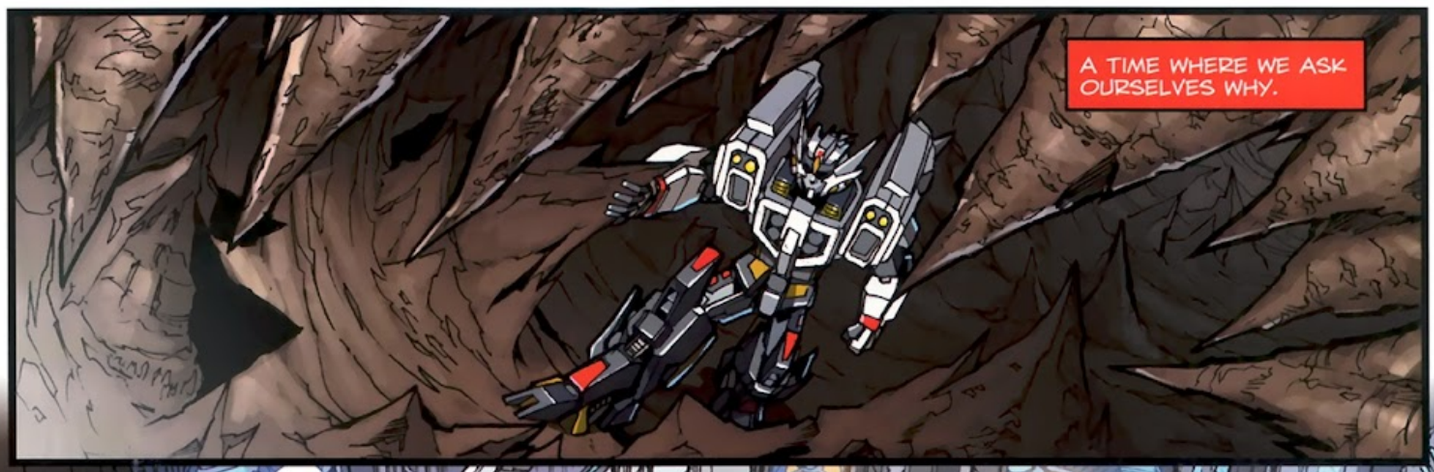
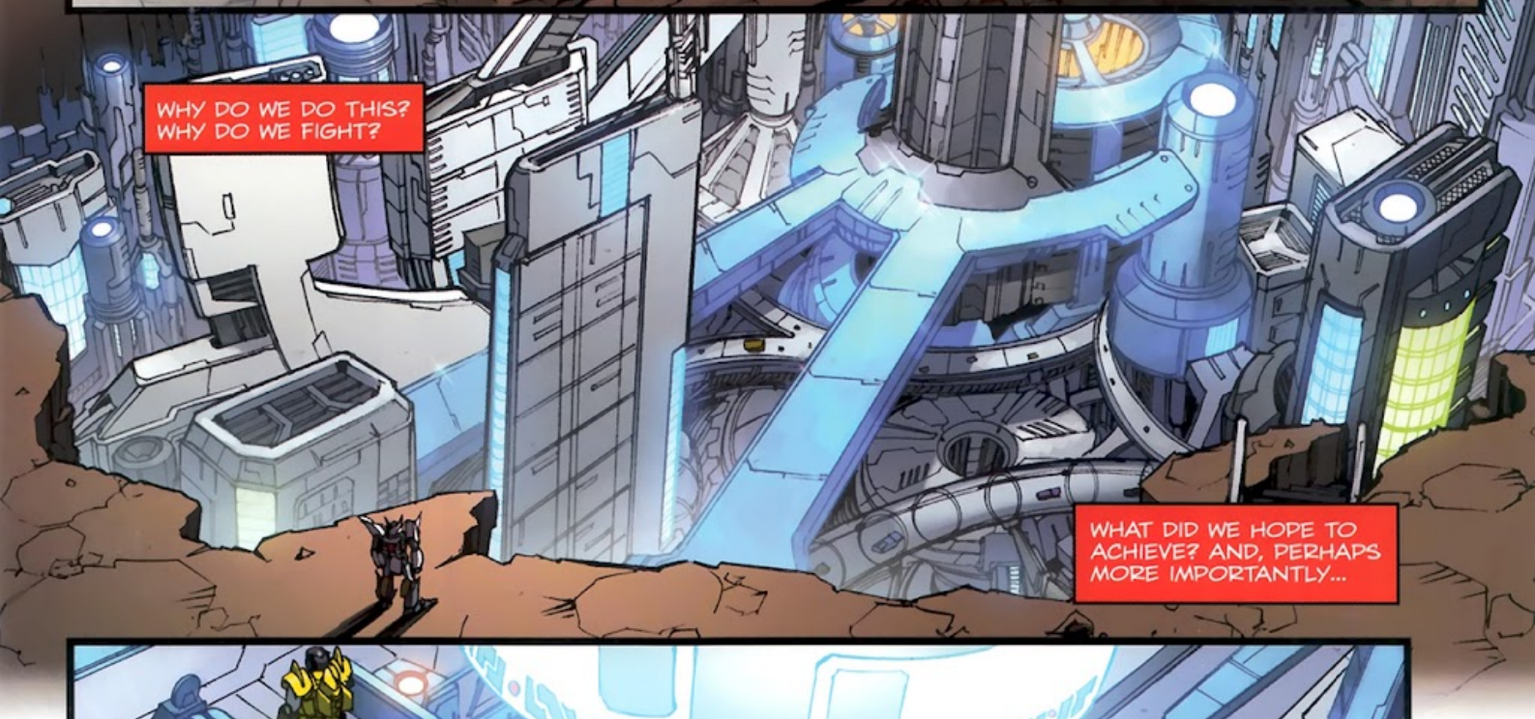
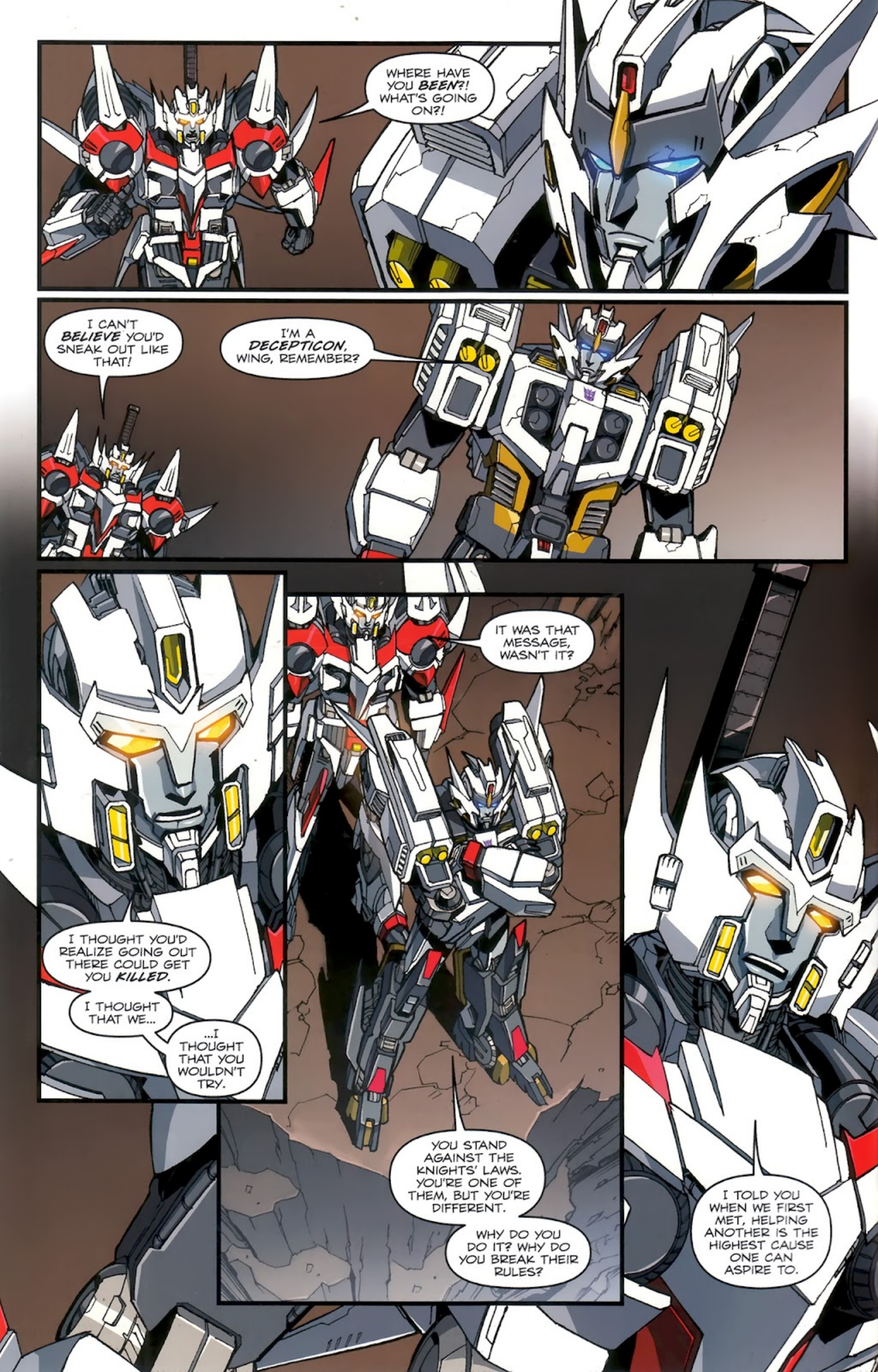
THERE COMES A TIME WITH ALL OF US. USUALLY WHEN IT'S QUIET, WHEN IT'S STILL.


A TIME WHERE WE ASK OURSELVES WHY.


WHY DO WE DO THIS? WHY DO WE FIGHT?
WHAT DID WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE? AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY...

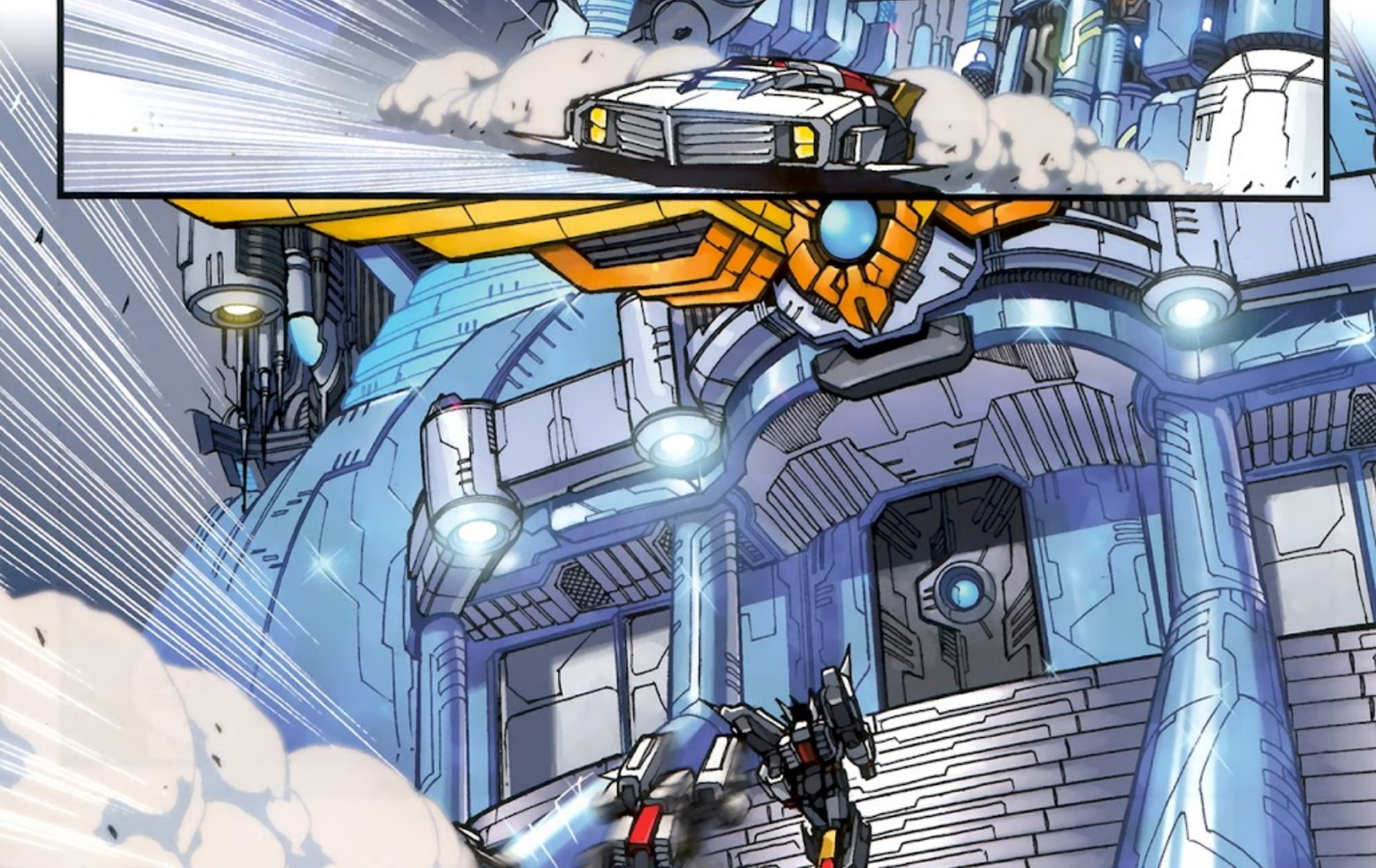
...HOW FAR WILL WE GO TO GET WHAT WE WANT?

DRIFT!


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D SNEAK OUT LIKE THAT!
I'M A DECEPTICON, WING, REMEMBER?
I THOUGHT YOU'D REALIZE GOING OUT THERE COULD GET YOU KILLED.
I THOUGHT THAT WE...
...I THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULDN'T TRY.
IT WAS THAT MESSAGE, WASN'T IT?
YOU STAND AGAINST THE KNIGHTS' LAWS. YOU'RE ONE OF THEM, BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT.
WHY DO YOU DO IT? WHY DO YOU BREAK THEIR RULES?
I TOLD YOU WHEN WE FIRST MET, HELPING ANOTHER IS THE HIGHEST CAUSE ONE CAN ASPIRE TO.

I DO IT BECAUSE I THINK IT'S RIGHT.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!



YOU'RE IN DANGER. ALL OF YOU.
THERE'S AN ARMY OF SLAVERS OUT THERE PREPARING FOR WAR, AND VERY SOON THEY'LL BE ON YOUR DOORSTEP.
WHAT?
HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT?
BECAUSE I JUST MADE A DEAL WITH THEM TO SELL YOU OUT FOR MY FREEDOM.

"I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE A GREAT DECEPTICON WARRIOR.
"FEARED.
"RESPECTED.
"CLEARLY YOU ARE A CUNNING WARRIOR..."

...AND YET YOU FIND YOURSELF ALONE AND STRANDED, HERE.
MEGATRON HAS HEARD OF YOUR ATTEMPT TO SEIZE POWER FROM TURMOIL, DEADLOCK.
HE KNOWS TURMOIL IS SEEKING YOUR HEAD AND HAS DISPATCHED ME PERSONALLY TO BRING YOU IN...
...UNHARMED.
YOU'RE WORTH TOO MUCH TO HIS PLANS TO LOSE YOU OVER A SPAT.
YOU HAVE FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES.
AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO TRUST YOU AND YOUR DEAL?
WHAT'S TO SAY YOU WON'T JUST KILL US ANYWAY?

YOU WOUND ME.
MY KIND, LIKE YOURS, HAS EXISTED FOR SO MANY YEARS. WE TOO FELT THE STING OF ENDLESS WAR.
AS THE DUST SETTLED, WHAT WAS LEFT WAS A STRONGER, MORE DETERMINED SPECIES WITH ONE MISSION...
...IMMORTALITY.
"WE COMB THE GALAXIES IN SEARCH OF LIFEFORMS WE CAN USE. WE ADAPT OURSELVES AND GROW WITH EACH NEW DISCOVERY.
"YOU MIGHT CALL THEM UPGRADES."
NOW WE SHIFT MORE AND MORE TOWARD THE TECHNOLOGICAL.
THROUGHOUT THE YEARS WE'VE BEEN PAYING ATTENTION. WATCHING. YOUR KIND HAS ALWAYS BEEN THERE, ALWAYS SURVIVING, NEVER DYING.
I WANT WHAT YOU HAVE.

I DON'T NEED *YOU*; YOUR HEROIC "*FRIENDS*" WILL DO. THEY'RE CLEARLY NOT DECEPTICONS, SO YOU SHOULDN'T MIND.

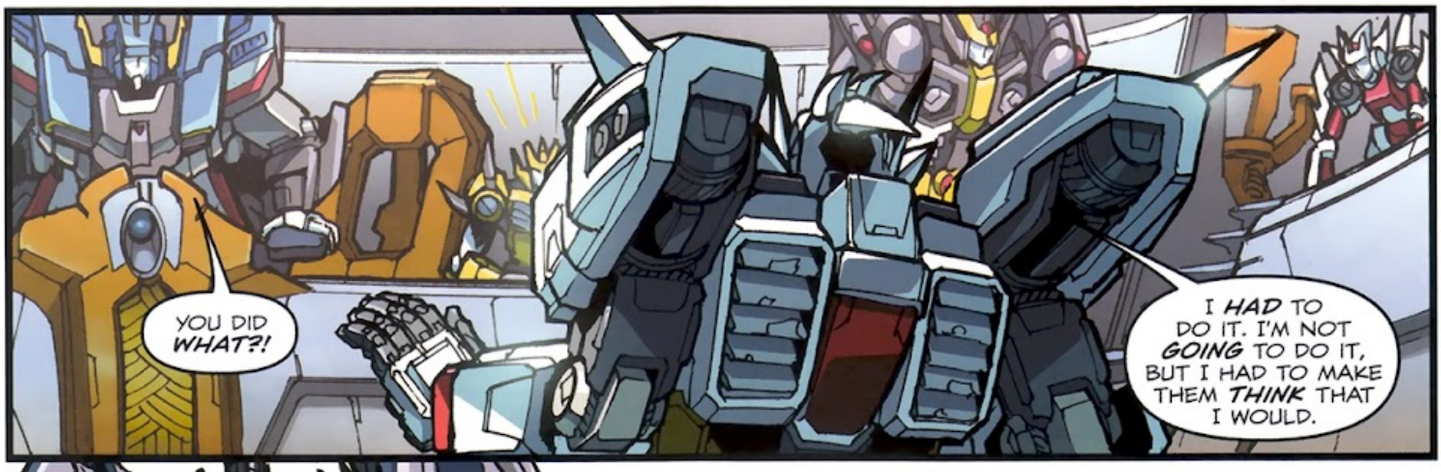
YOU'VE BEEN REPAIRED—THAT TAKES PARTS, EQUIPMENT. THERE'S MORE THAN THE ONE WHO SAVED YOU.
HOW MANY?

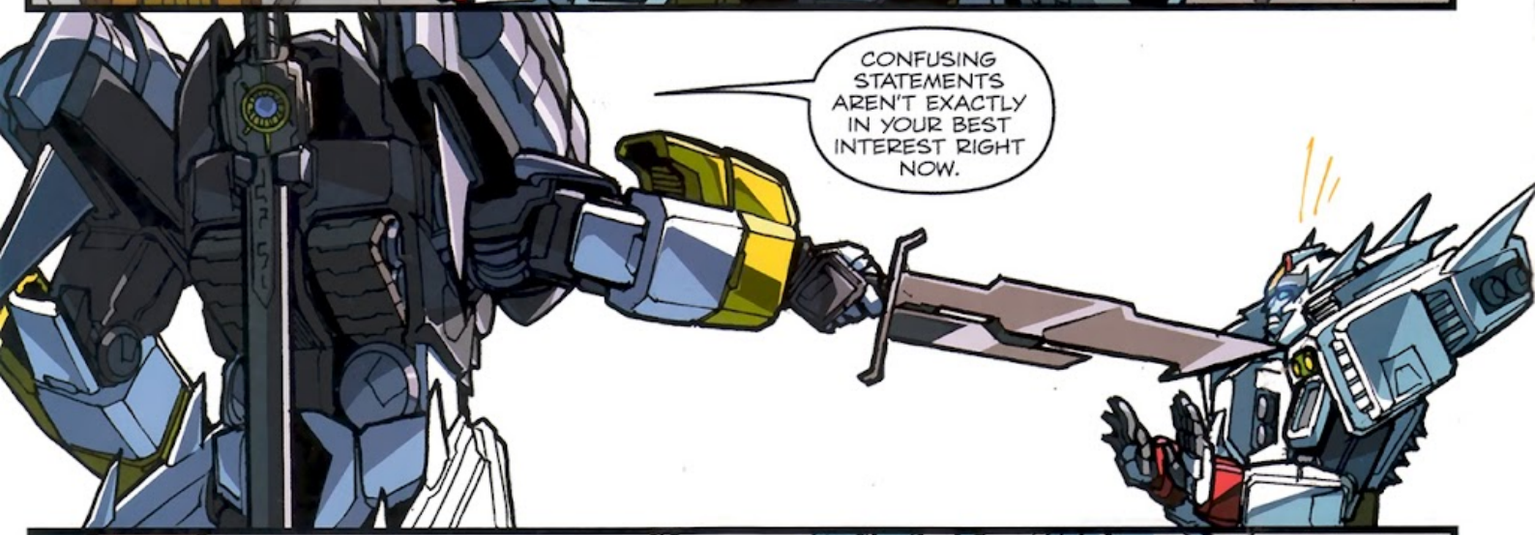
THEY'RE HIDDEN, *WELL* DEFENDED.
I HAVE AN ARMY.
AN ALL-OUT ATTACK WOULD BE SUICIDE.

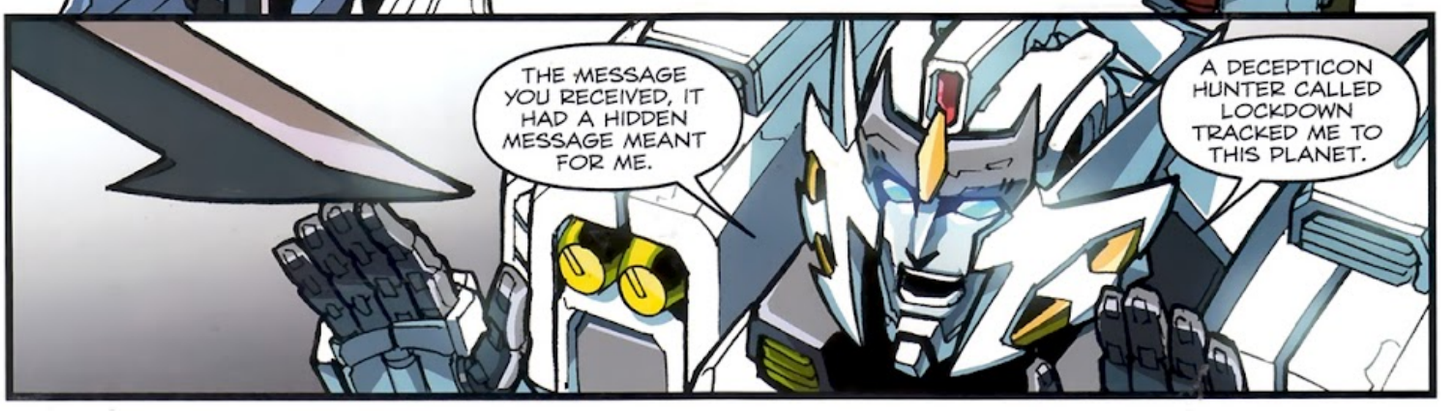
THEN IT'S DECEIT.

GO TO THEM, TELL THEM WHATEVER YOU NEED, AND LEAD THEM INTO AN AMBUSH.

GIVE THEM TO ME AND YOU'LL HAVE YOUR FREEDOM. YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR MEGATRON.
WHAT SAY YOU?
AGREED.
YOU HAVE ONE SOLAR CYCLE.
DEADLOCK.
THIS PLANET, THESE CREATURES, THEY'RE OF NO CONCERN TO US.
MEGATRON CLEARLY HAS FAITH IN YOU.
LET'S HOPE IT'S NOT MISPLACED.


YOU DID WHAT?!
I HAD TO DO IT. I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT, BUT I HAD TO MAKE THEM THINK THAT I WOULD.


CONFUSING STATEMENTS AREN'T EXACTLY IN YOUR BEST INTEREST RIGHT NOW.


THE MESSAGE YOU RECEIVED, IT HAD A HIDDEN MESSAGE MEANT FOR ME.
A DECEPTICON HUNTER CALLED LOCKDOWN TRACKED ME TO THIS PLANET.

HE MADE A DEAL WITH THE SLAVERS, AND THEY MADE A DEAL WITH ME.
I HAD TO AGREE TO THE DEAL, THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE I COULD DO.

THEY'VE GIVEN ME ONE SOLAR CYCLE, WHATEVER THAT IS HERE, TO SEND THEM YOUR LOCATION AND LEAD YOU INTO AN AMBUSH.

AND WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE US DO?
PREPARE FOR BATTLE, DAI ATLAS. GO TO WAR. THEY DON'T KNOW HOW MANY WE HAVE HERE—

LOCK HIM UP!
THAT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
I KNOW I'M A DECEPTICON. I KNOW YOU HATE ME, BUT I'M ON YOUR SIDE.
OF COURSE YOU ARE, RIGHT UP UNTIL YOU LEAD US INTO THAT AMBUSH.

WHY?
WHY WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU ON OUR SIDE?

BECAUSE I'VE FOUND SOMETHING WORTH FIGHTING FOR.
BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

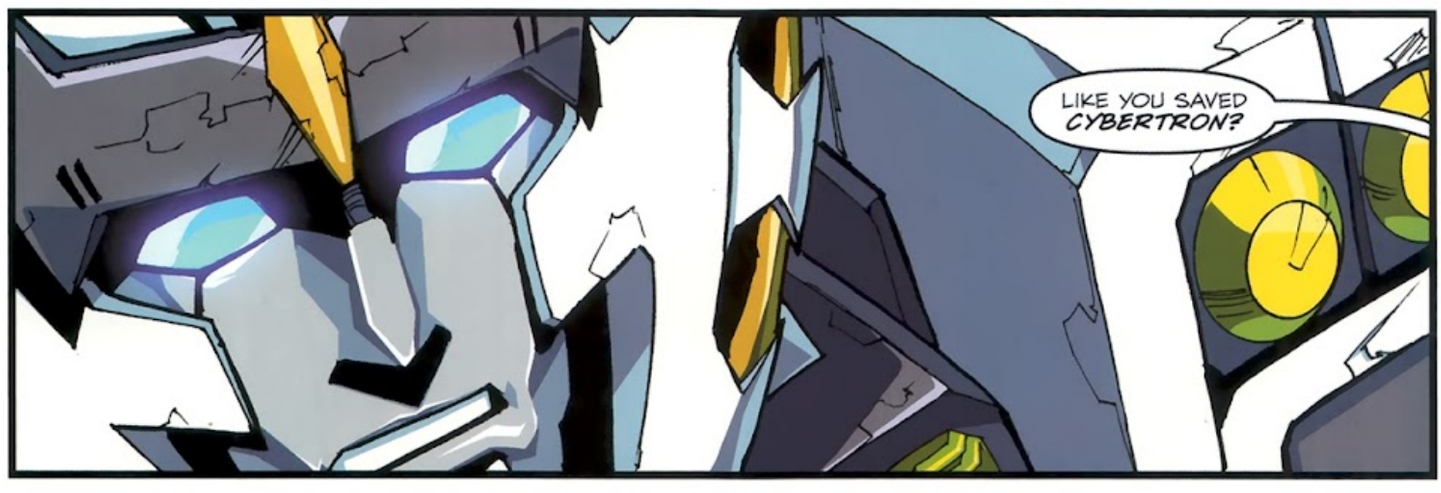
BECAUSE I WANT WHAT YOU HAVE.
IT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED.

AND IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE IT ALL AWAY.

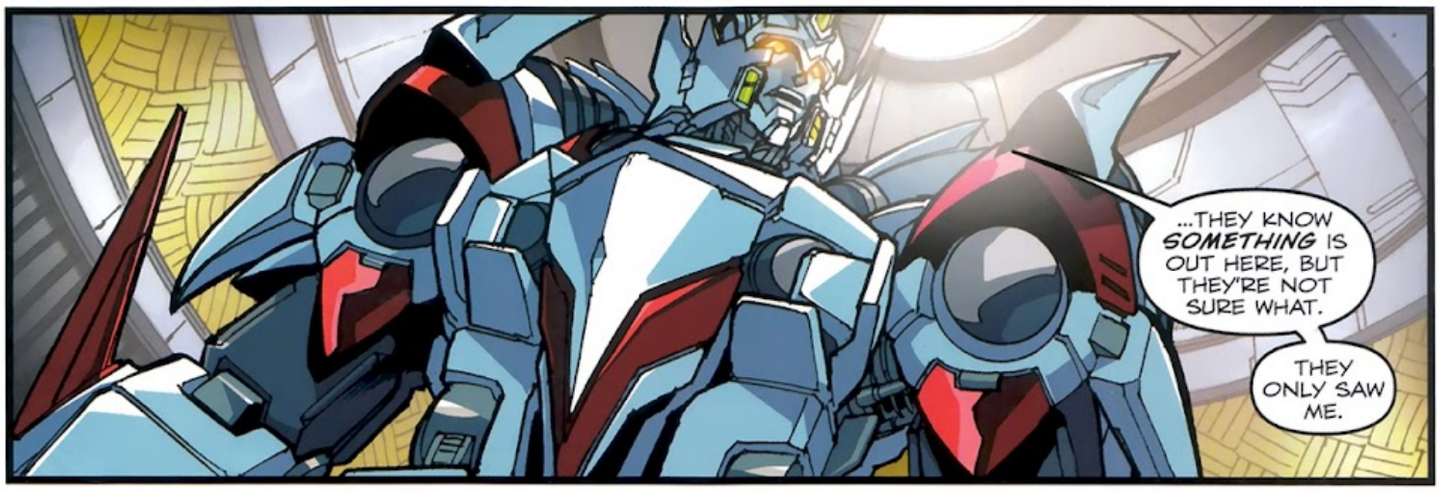
THEY KNOW YOU'RE HERE NOW. THE NUMBER-ONE REASON YOU'VE NEVER BEEN FOUND IS BECAUSE NO ONE HAS BEEN *LOOKING.*
BEFORE LONG THEY'LL FIND THIS PLACE. THEY'LL FIND IT, AND THEY'LL TEAR IT APART.

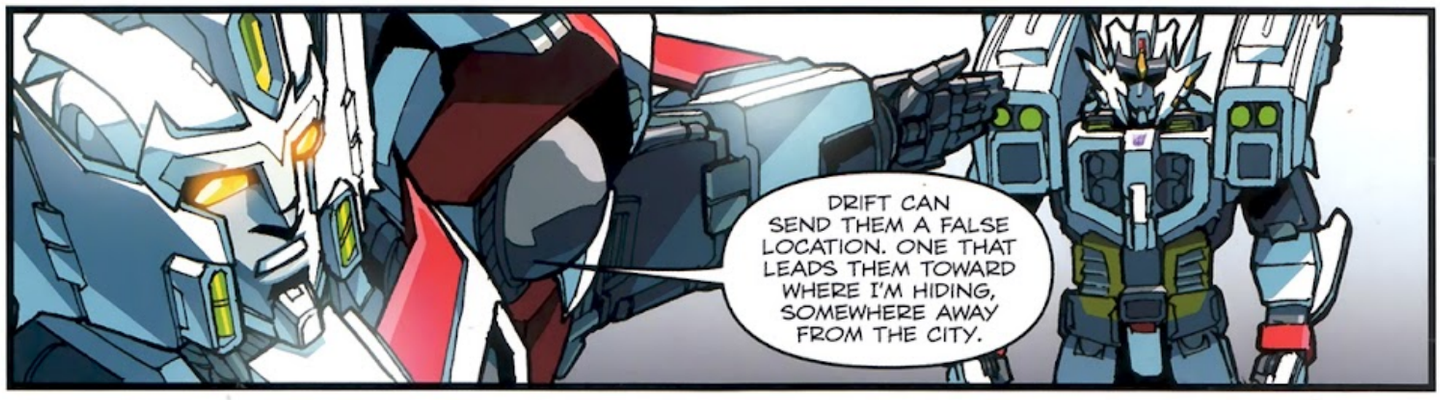
SURELY YOU HAVE WEAPONS...
WE DO. IN THE VAULT.

I *KNOW* THAT, I *KNOW*. BUT I'M *TRYING* TO FIX THIS. I'M *TRYING* TO MAKE IT RIGHT.
BY GOING TO WAR. *AGAIN.*
DOESN'T YOUR KIND THINK OF *ANYTHING* ELSE?
THIS IS *ALL* BECAUSE OF YOU! THIS IS *YOUR* FAULT!
I'M TRYING TO *SAVE* YOU.

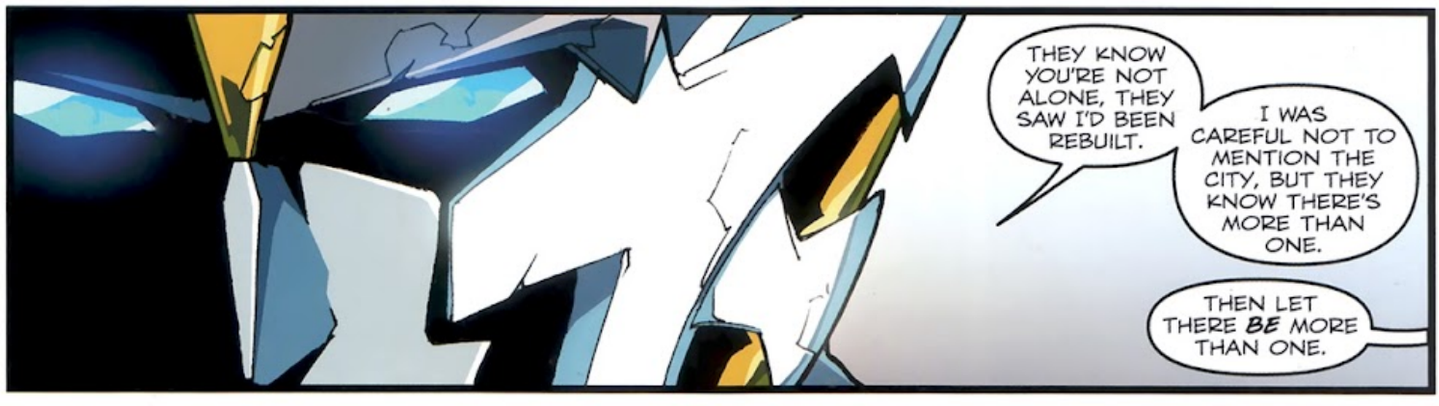

LIKE YOU SAVED *CYBERTRON?*

DO YOU THINK THEY HAVE THE MEANS TO FIND US?
ABSOLUTELY.
IMPOSSIBLE.
IT'S NOT.
IT IS. WE ARE COMPLETELY HIDDEN HERE. THEY WILL NEVER FIND US.
I ALONE HAVE ACCESS TO THE VAULT. I ALONE CAN GIVE THE COMMAND FOR WAR. AND I WILL NOT!
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT COULD REVEAL OUR POSITION HERE. THIS CITY AND ALL ITS PEOPLE MUST REMAIN A SECRET.
DAI ATLAS, THEY WILL FIND US. SURELY YOU CAN SEE THAT.
OUR CIVILIZATION IS UNTOUCHED BY WAR. ALL OF CYBERTRON'S CULTURE IS HERE.
I WILL NOT JEOPARDIZE THAT.
WE DON'T HAVE TO...


...THEY KNOW SOMETHING IS OUT HERE, BUT THEY'RE NOT SURE WHAT.
THEY ONLY SAW ME.


DRIFT CAN SEND THEM A FALSE LOCATION. ONE THAT LEADS THEM TOWARD WHERE I'M HIDING, SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM THE CITY.

YOU'RE SUGGESTING GIVING YOUR OWN LIFE FOR CRYSTAL CITY?
YES.
IT WON'T WORK.

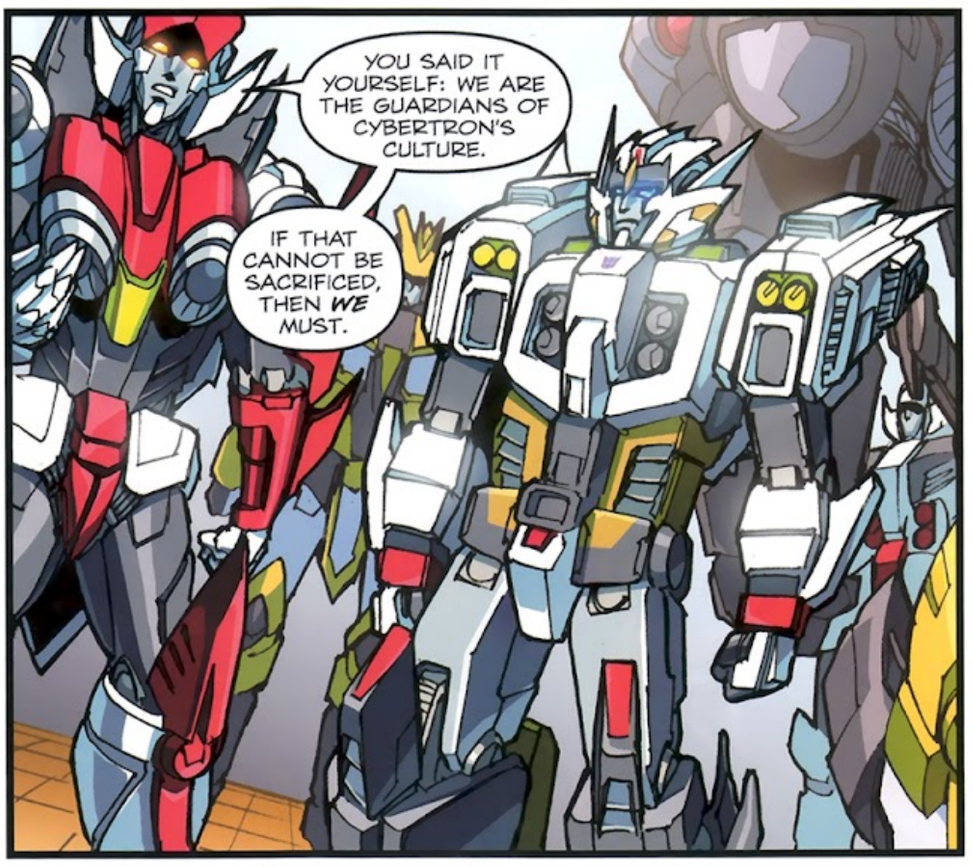

THEY KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALONE, THEY SAW I'D BEEN REBUILT.
I WAS CAREFUL NOT TO MENTION THE CITY, BUT THEY KNOW THERE'S MORE THAN ONE.
THEN LET THERE BE MORE THAN ONE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT MUST BE DONE.

I WILL GO WITH WING. I WILL FIGHT.
YOU WILL DIE.
SO THE CITY MAY LIVE.

WE WILL GO.
MAYBE WE CAN CONSTRUCT A DERELICT SHIP TO MAKE IT APPEAR WE HAVE CRASHED HERE.
WE WON'T HAVE TO GO FAR. ONCE THEY FIND IT, THEY WON'T LOOK ANYWHERE ELSE.

THIS IS MADNESS. YOU WILL DIE, ALL OF YOU.


YOU SAID IT YOURSELF: WE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF CYBERTRON'S CULTURE.
IF THAT CANNOT BE SACRIFICED, THEN WE MUST.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WITH A FULLY ARMED CITY OF CYBERTRONIANS BEHIND US, WE COULD OVERCOME THE SLAVERS AND PUT AN END TO THEIR THREAT.
IS THAT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CYBERTRONIAN NOW? WAR?

IT'S NOT AS THOUGH CYBERTRON HASN'T SEEN WAR BEFORE.
OUR CIVIL WAR WAS ONE THING. I CAN SEE WHY YOU MADE THE CHOICE YOU DID, BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT.
IT'S ALL THE SAME.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WING TOLD ME YOUR HISTORY.
YOU'RE A SEASONED VETERAN, THE OLDEST OF THE KNIGHTS. YOU'VE FOUGHT IN WARS BEFORE, MANY WARS.

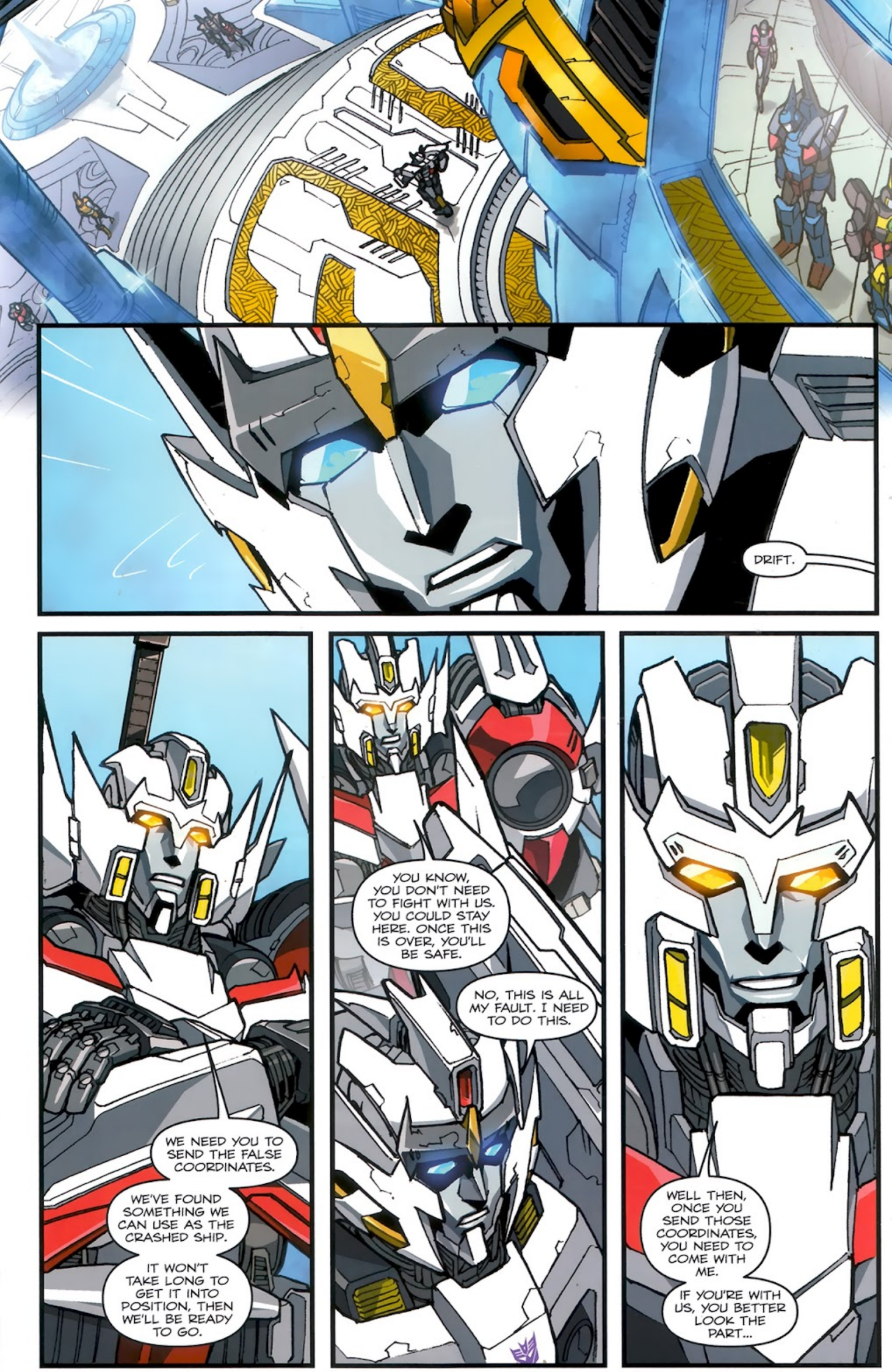
HOW COULD YOU NOT—
IS *THAT* IT? ALL THOSE WARS?

YOU'VE FOUGHT IN SO MANY WARS, SO MANY BATTLES.
YOU CAN'T STAND TO FACE IT AGAIN?

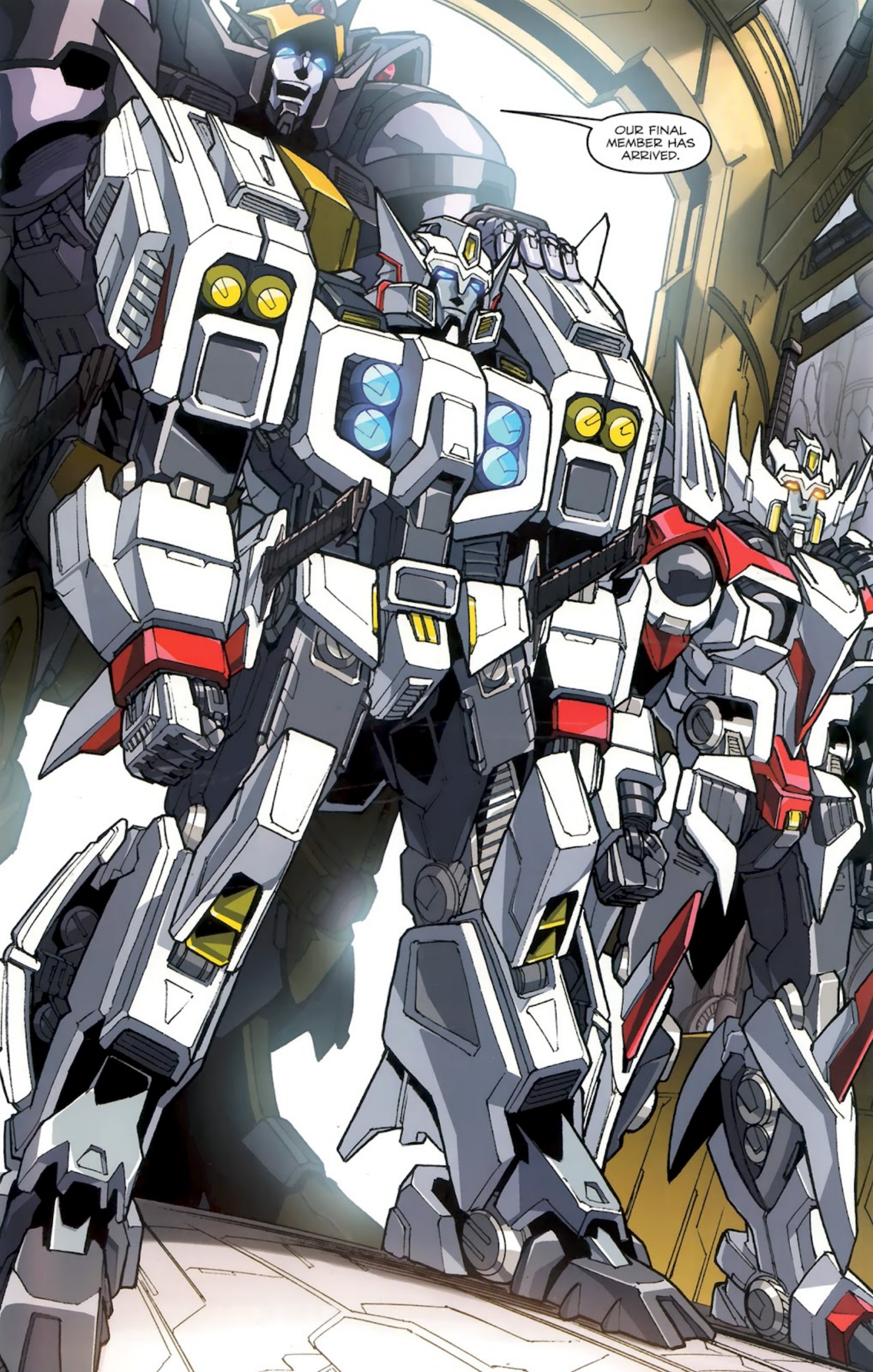
YOU'D RISK THE LIVES OF EVERYONE IN THIS CITY BECAUSE YOU'RE *SCARED?*
WHAT HAS ALL THAT FIGHTING DONE TO YOU, DAI ATLAS? MADE YOU A COWARD?

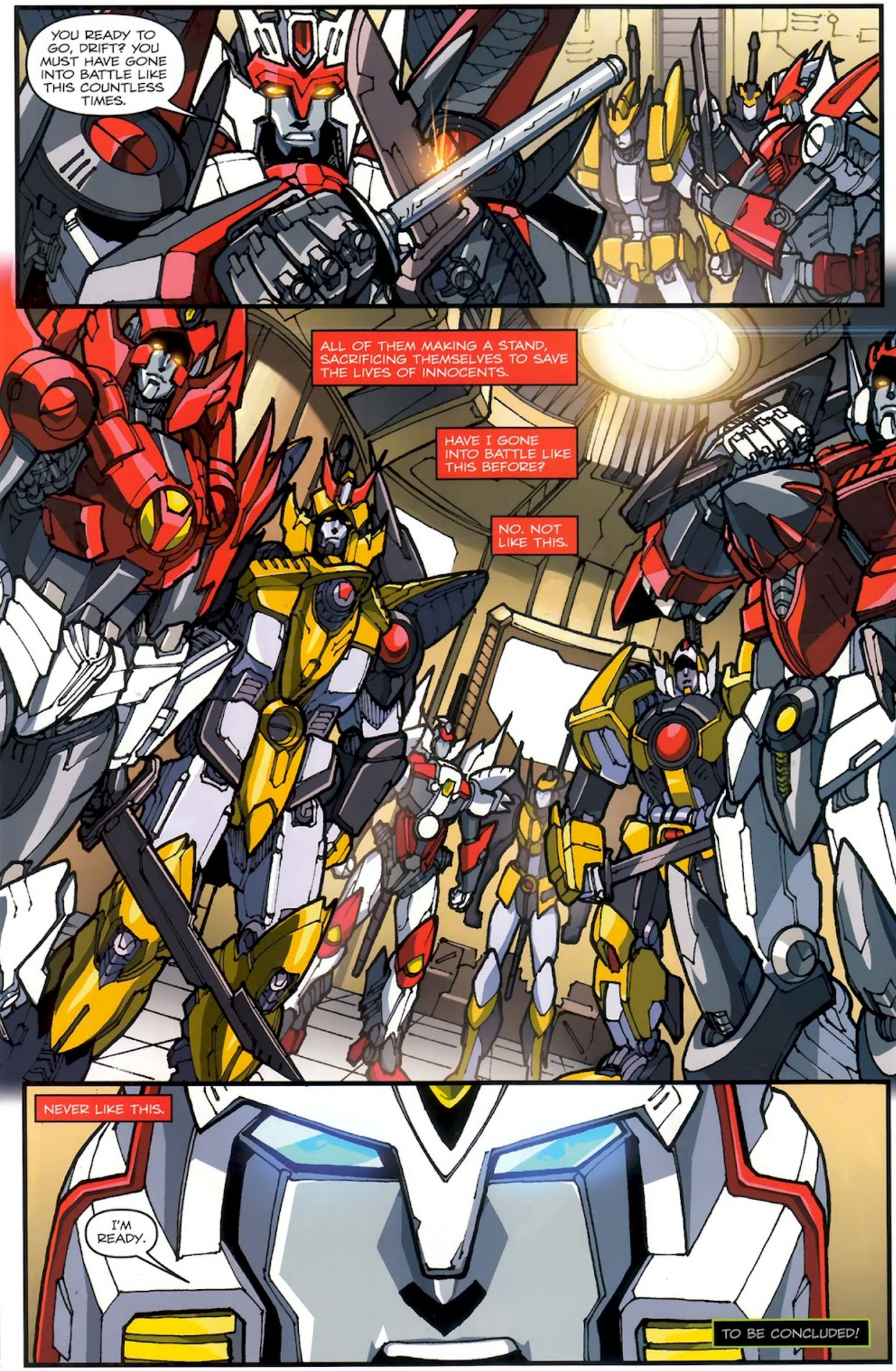
MAYBE...
...BUT I'LL TAKE THAT OVER THE ALTERNATIVE.

LOOK WHAT IT DID TO YOU.


DRIFT.
WE NEED YOU TO SEND THE FALSE COORDINATES.
WE'VE FOUND SOMETHING WE CAN USE AS THE CRASHED SHIP.
IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO GET IT INTO POSITION, THEN WE'LL BE READY TO GO.
YOU KNOW, YOU DON'T NEED TO FIGHT WITH US. YOU COULD STAY HERE. ONCE THIS IS OVER, YOU'LL BE SAFE.
NO, THIS IS ALL MY FAULT. I NEED TO DO THIS.
WELL THEN, ONCE YOU SEND THOSE COORDINATES, YOU NEED TO COME WITH ME.
IF YOU'RE WITH US, YOU BETTER LOOK THE PART...

OH, HO! A NEW LOOK!


OUR FINAL MEMBER HAS ARRIVED.


YOU READY TO GO, DRIFT? YOU MUST HAVE GONE INTO BATTLE LIKE THIS COUNTLESS TIMES.
ALL OF THEM MAKING A STAND, SACRIFICING THEMSELVES TO SAVE THE LIVES OF INNOCENTS.
HAVE I GONE INTO BATTLE LIKE THIS BEFORE?
NO. NOT LIKE THIS.
NEVER LIKE THIS.
I'M READY.
TO BE CONCLUDED!

NEXT ISSUE...
...THE END!
CATCH THE ACTION-PACKED CONCLUSION IN TWO WEEKS!

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STORY SO FAR...

Faced with the choice of selling out the Knights or fighting alongside them, Drift chooses to make his stand on the side of good.

Knowing that the slavers are only aware of a few of them, Drift and the Knights decide to leave Crystal City and make a suicidal stand in order to save the lives of everyone in the hidden city. Drift had hoped the whole city would stand and fight, yet Dai Atlas, the leader of the Knights, refuses to allow it to happen in an attempt to protect the city from war.

Now, Drift and the Knights must make a stand against hundreds in the hopes that they save the lives of thousands...

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THIS WILL BE A GOOD DEATH.

THE RUSE IS COMPLETE. FOR ALL OUR ENEMY KNOWS, WE'RE ALL THERE IS.
WITH OUR PASSING, THE SECRET OF CRYSTAL CITY WILL BE PROTECTED.

JUST SWORDS, THEN?
WE KNIGHTS ARE FORBIDDEN TO CARRY ANYTHING ELSE.

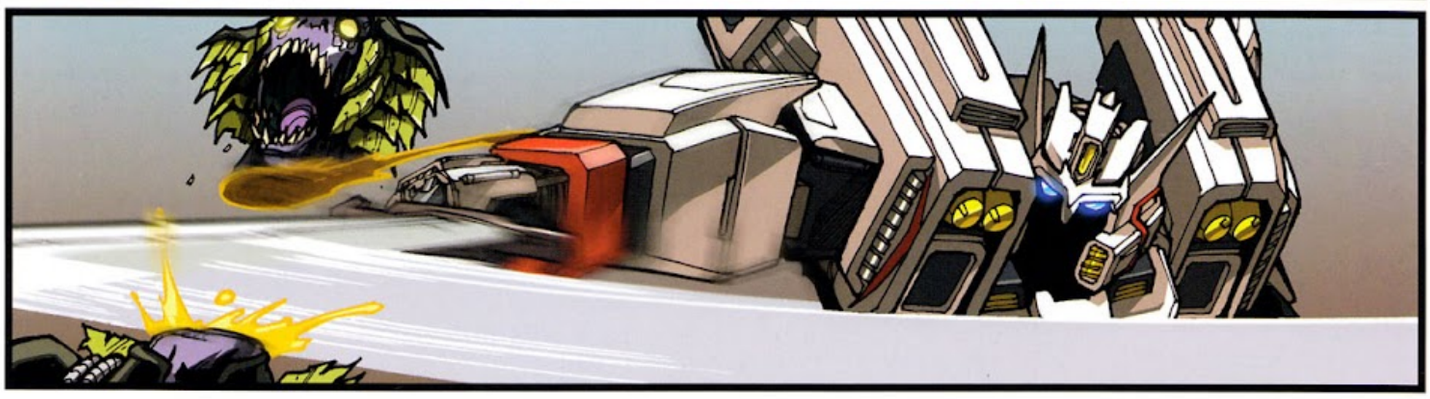
WELL, CAN'T YOU AT LEAST USE THE BIG ONES?

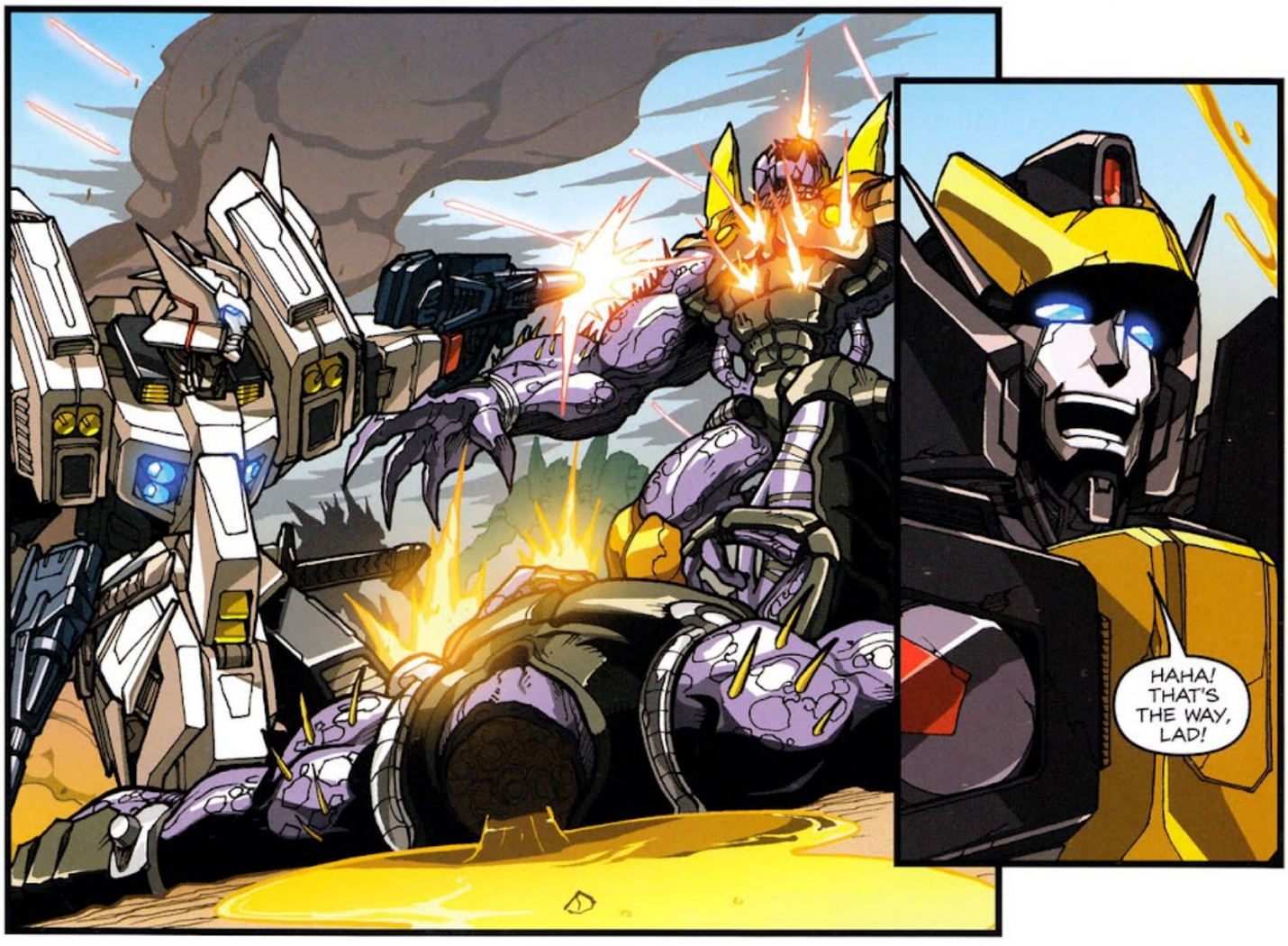
THE GREAT SWORDS ARE ANCIENT, OLDER THAN ANY OF US.
WHEN A GREAT SWORD IS DRAWN, IT USES THE VERY SPARK OF ITS BEARER TO INFLICT DAMAGE ON AN OPPONENT.

WE WILL ONLY DRAW A GREAT SWORD IN TIMES OF EXTREME NEED.
AND WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS?
THIS? HAHA...

"...I CALL THIS A WARM-UP."

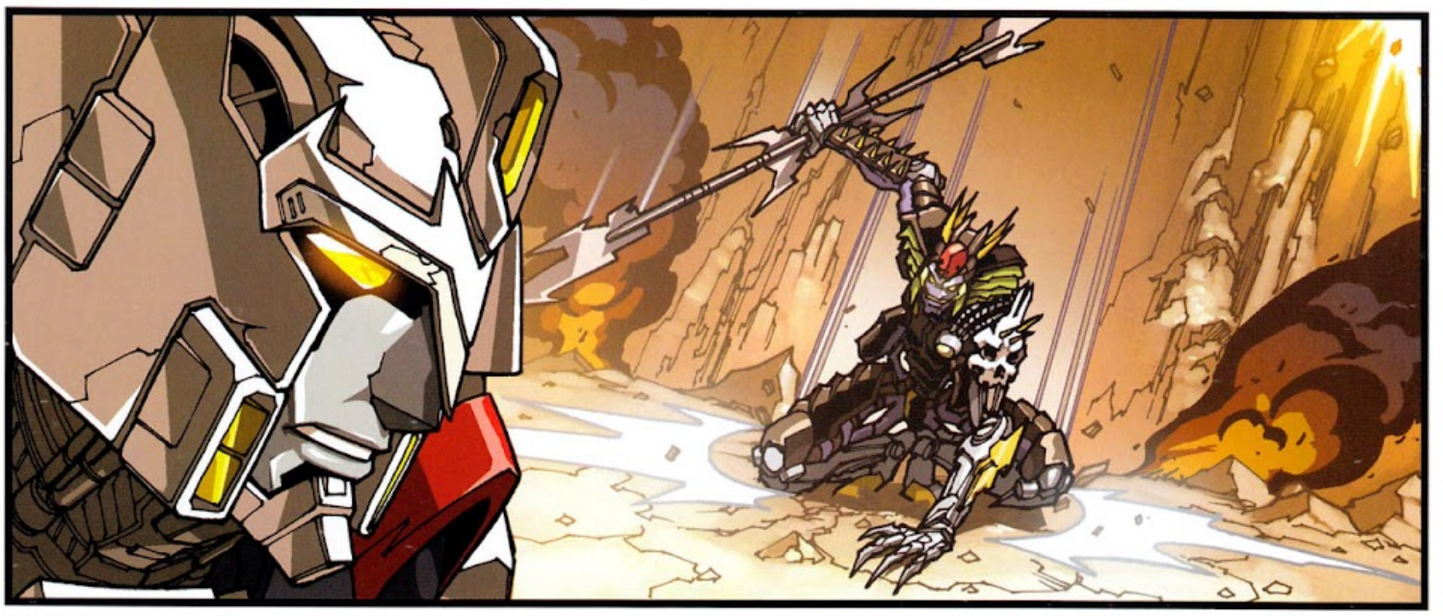
THEY'LL HAVE NONE OF YOU, DRIFT. IF YOU PLAN ON BETRAYING US, NOW'S THE TIME.



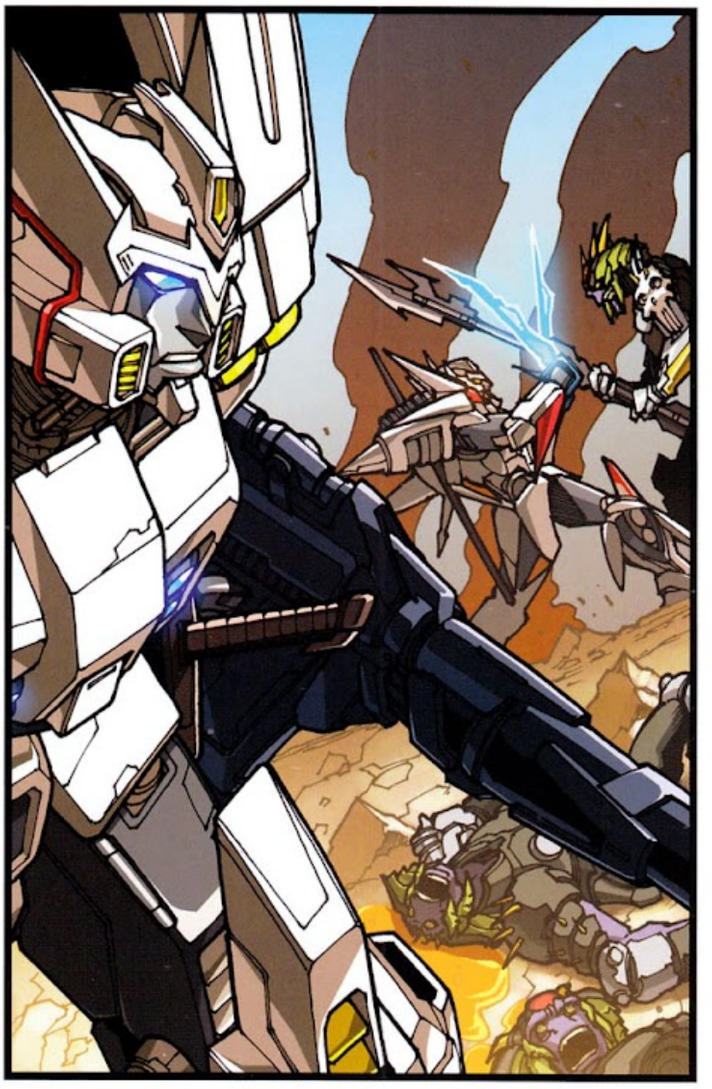

HAHA! THAT'S THE WAY, LAD!

HOW MANY WARS? HOW MANY BATTLES? I CAN'T, NOT AGAIN... I CAN'T...

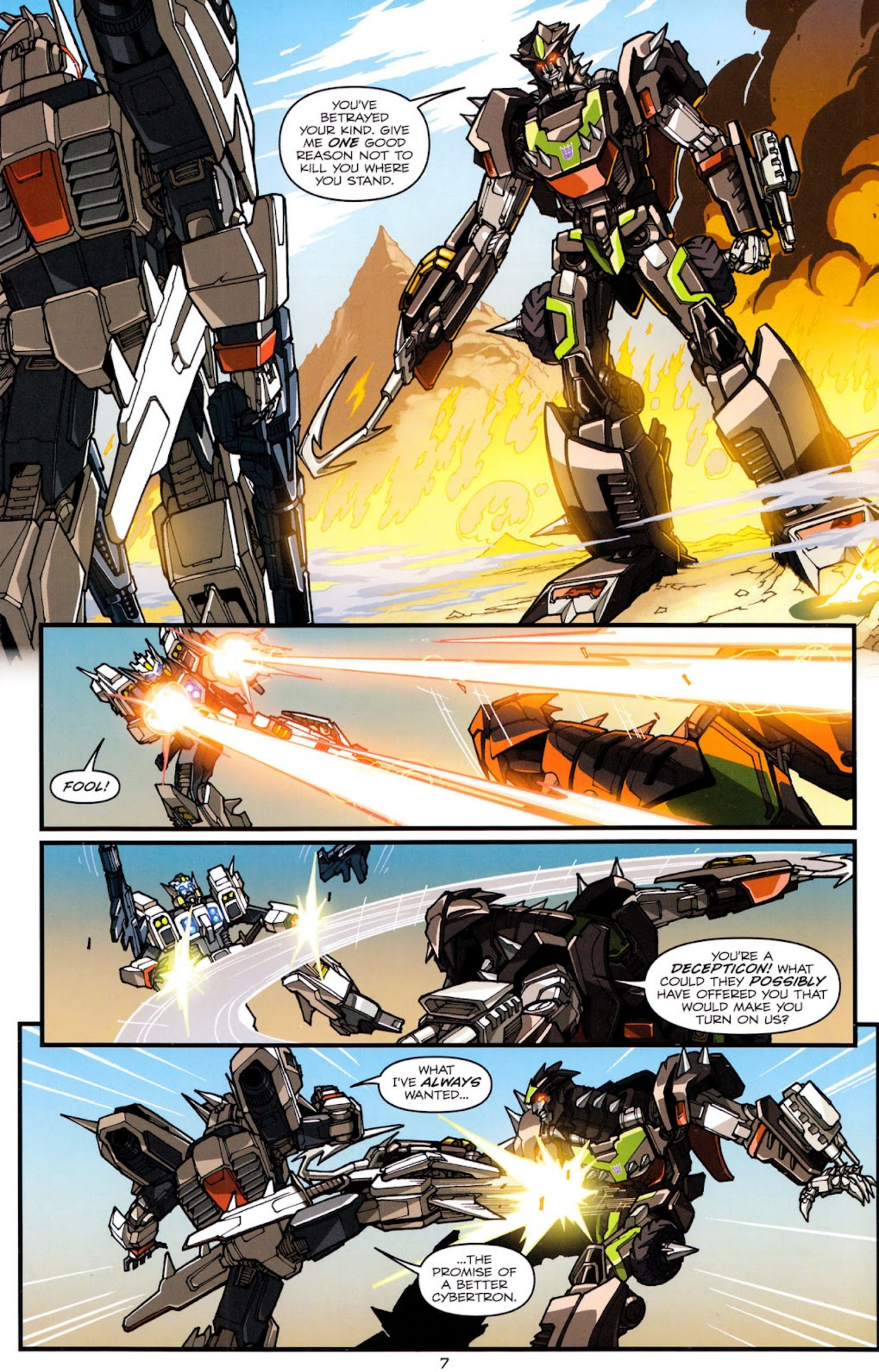
KEEP YOUR RHYTHM, DRIFT.
HEAD UP, EYES ON YOUR NEXT OPPONENT, NOT YOUR LAST.
THAT ONE IS TROUBLE.



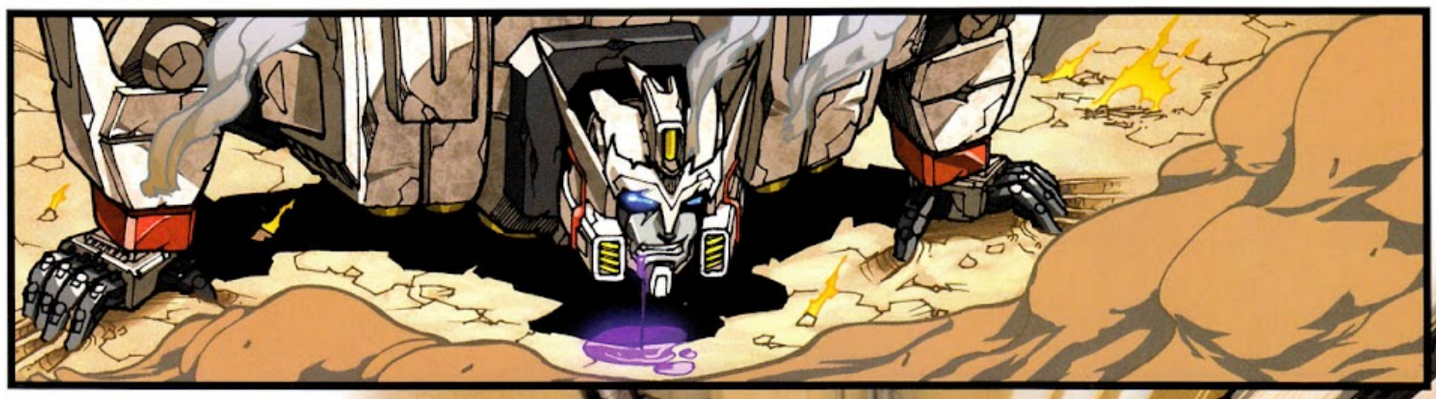
YOU.



HE'S THE LEAST OF YOUR CONCERNS.

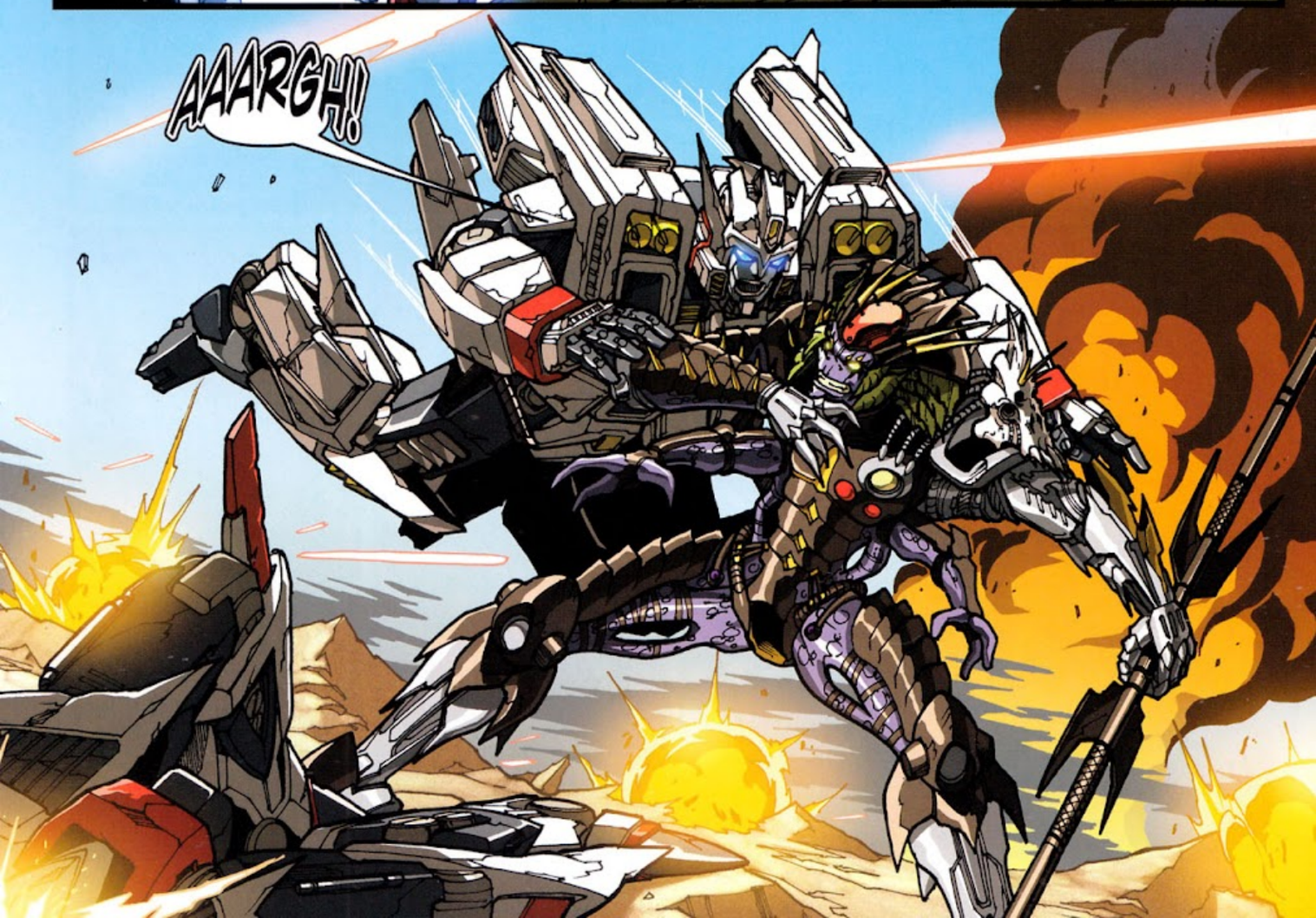

YOU'VE BETRAYED YOUR KIND. GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON NOT TO KILL YOU WHERE YOU STAND.
FOOL!
YOU'RE A DECEPTICON! WHAT COULD THEY POSSIBLY HAVE OFFERED YOU THAT WOULD MAKE YOU TURN ON US?
WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED...
...THE PROMISE OF A BETTER CYBERTRON.

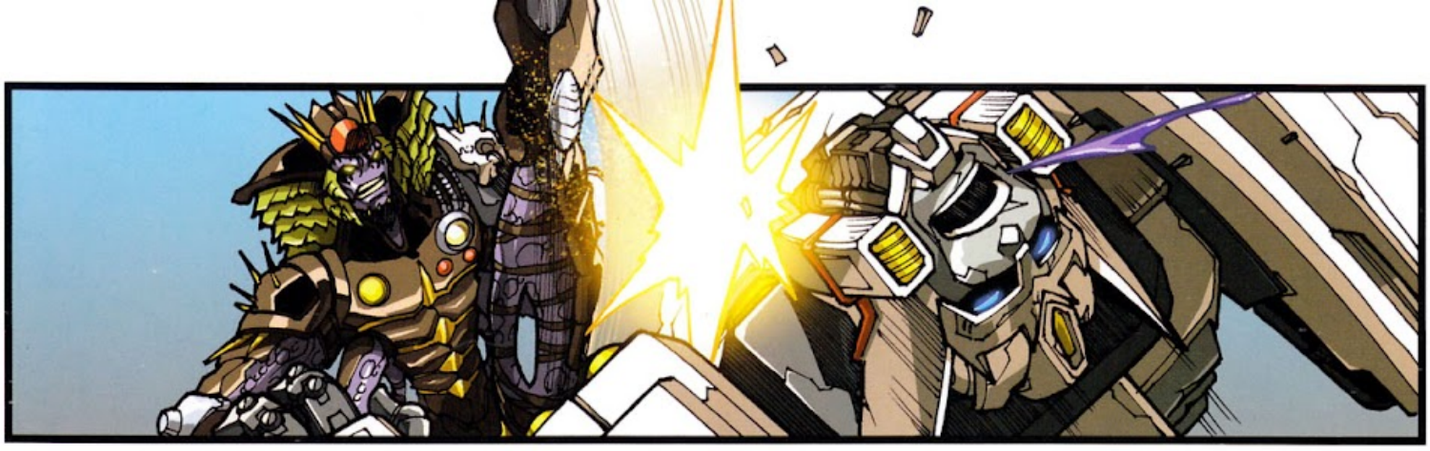
OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHY WE STARTED ALL OF THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE, LOCKDOWN?
IDEALISTS. YOU'LL BE THE DEATH OF US ALL.



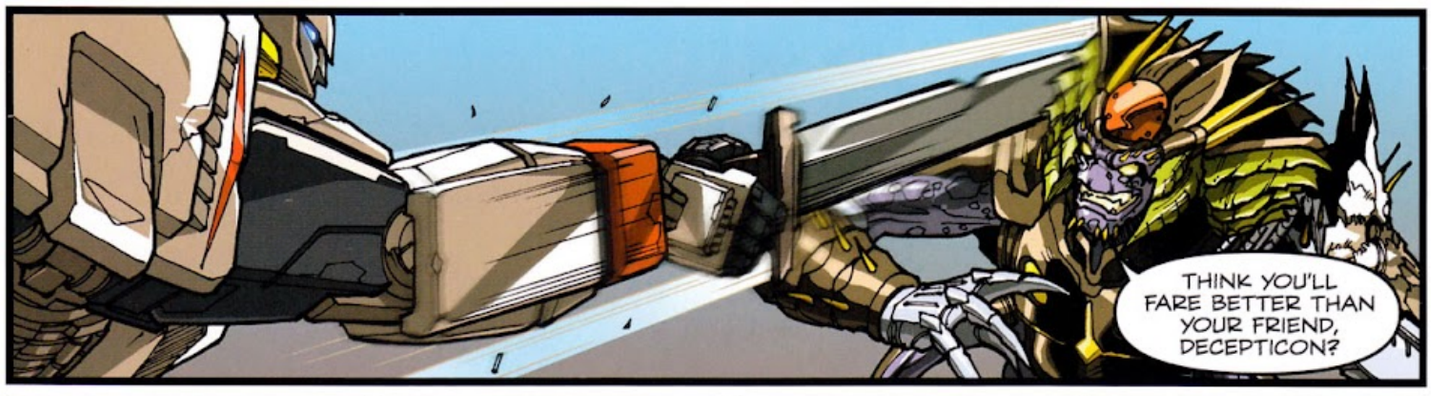
NO!

HOW MANY?! HOW MANY MORE DO I NEED TO LOSE?!


AAARGH!

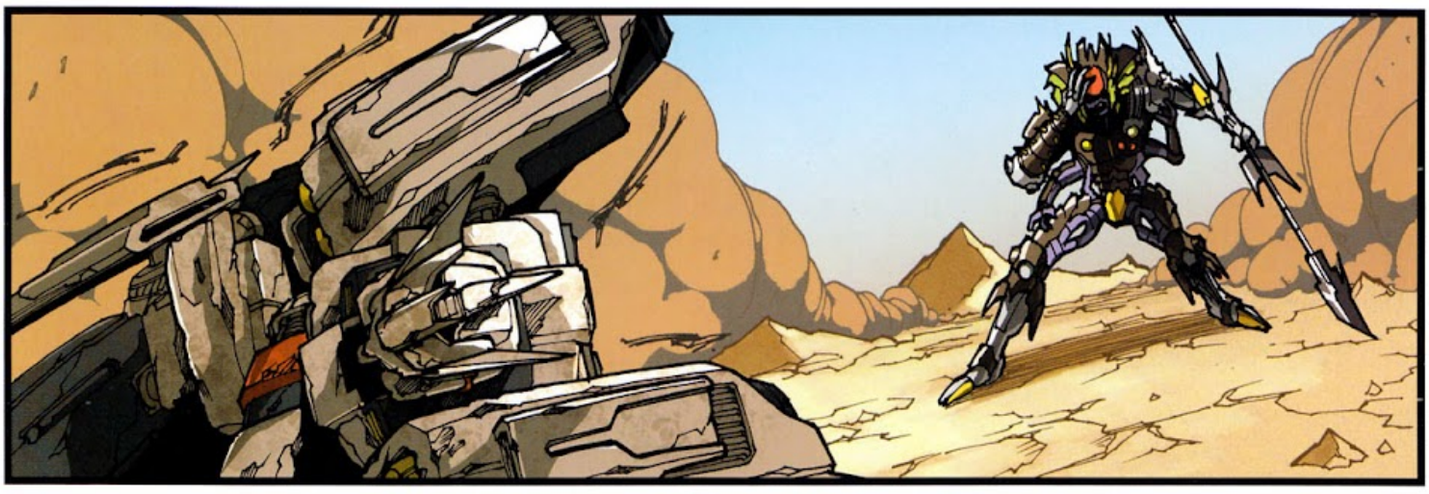


YOU'RE WOUNDED. SLOW.

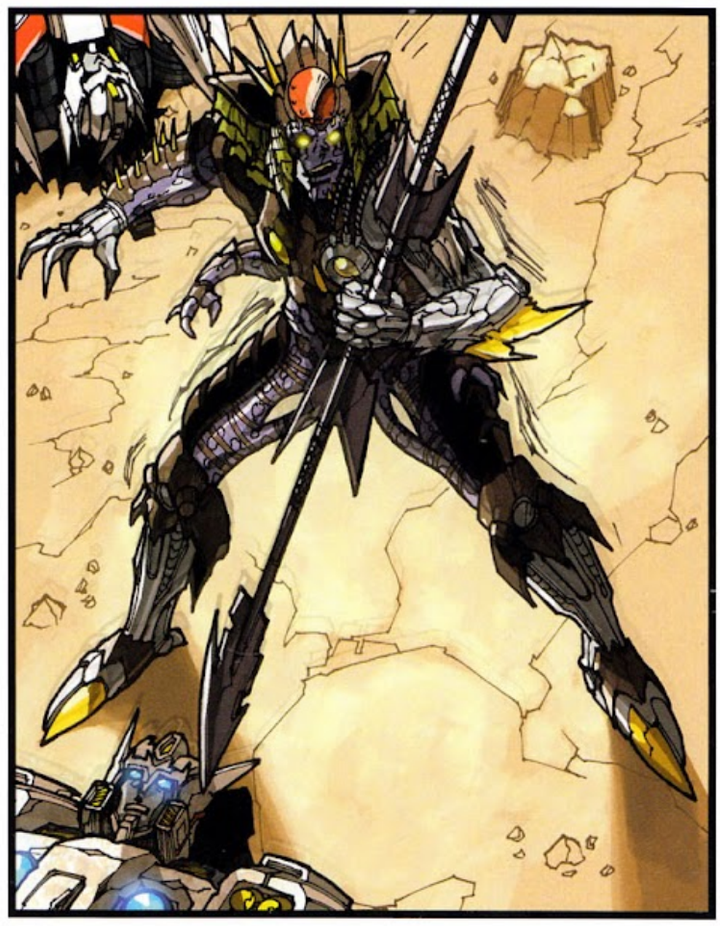

THINK YOU'LL FARE BETTER THAN YOUR FRIEND, DECEPTICON?

YOU MOVE LIKE HE DOES, BUT YOU LACK HIS FINESSE.

GAHHN!

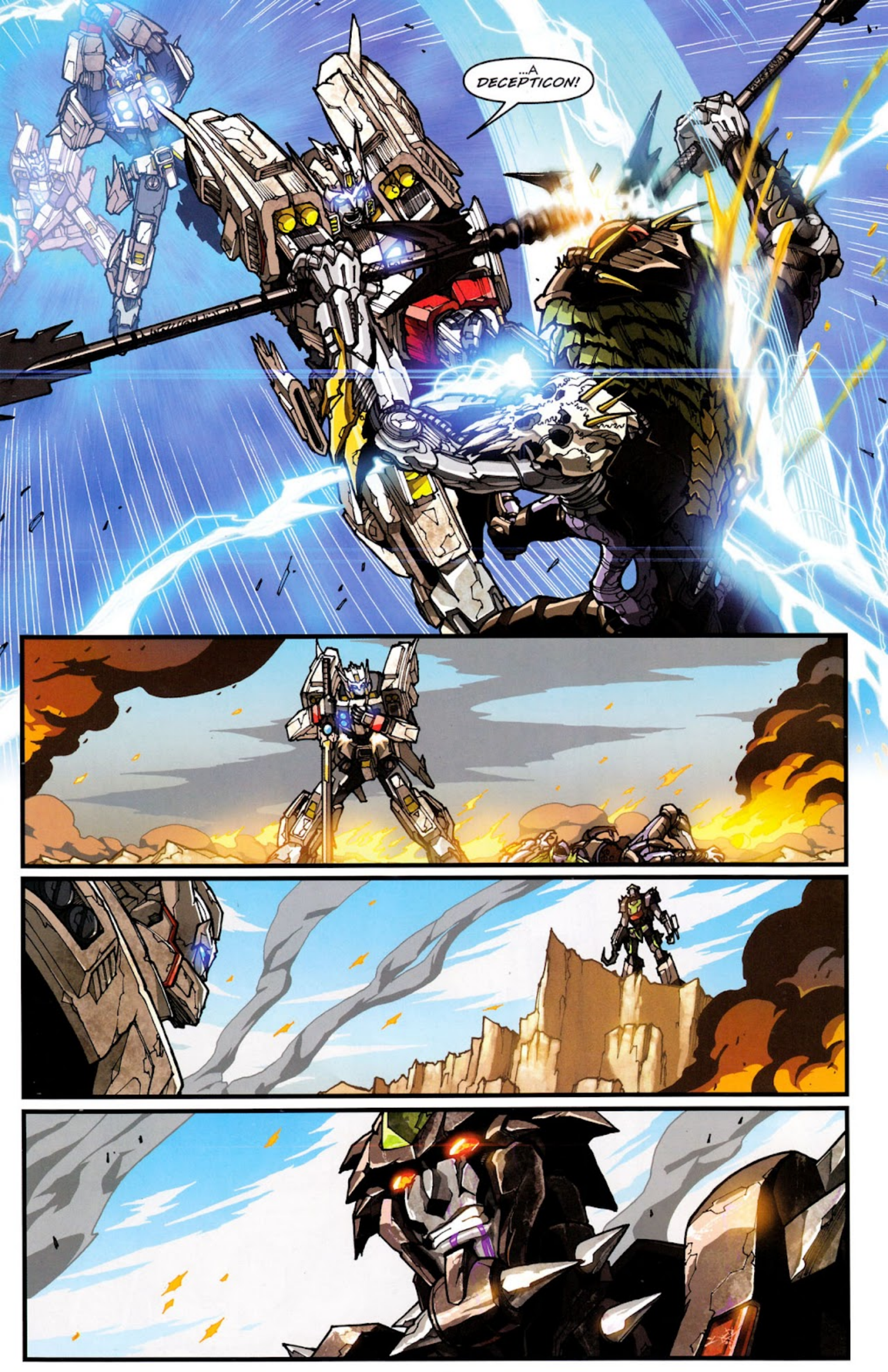


YOU'RE MINE, DECEPTICON. I'LL SLICE YOU UP ALONG WITH YOUR FRIEND AND USE YOU FOR PARTS!



CYBERTRONIANS!
FOR CRYSTAL CITY!

NO! NO!
BRAID!
WE'RE NOT DONE YET.
YOU CAN HARDLY STAND. WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY HOPE TO DO, DECEPTICON?
I AM NOT...


...A DECEPTICON!

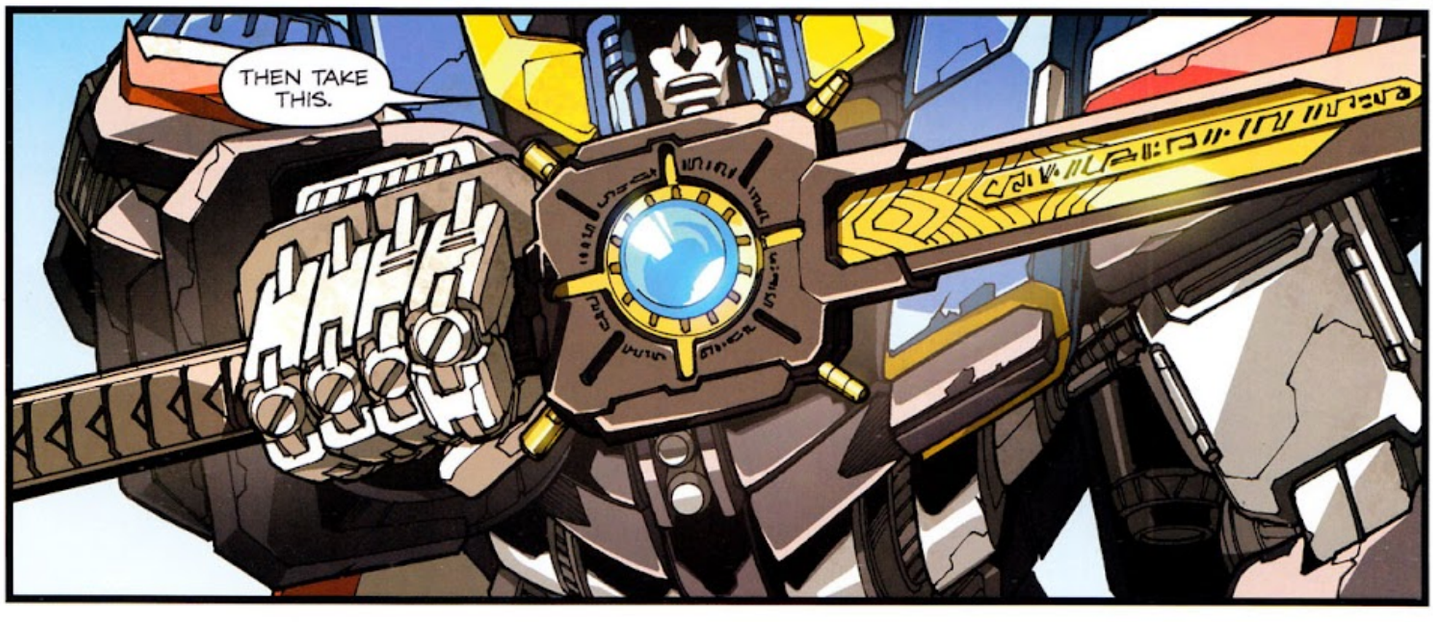
THIS COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED.
I WAS A FOOL.
CRYSTAL CITY WILL NO LONGER BE HIDDEN. WE WILL GROW. OUR MESSAGE OF PEACE WILL BE HEARD.
WILL YOU JOIN US, DRIFT?

I'M HONORED, DAI ATLAS, BUT I MUST REFUSE.

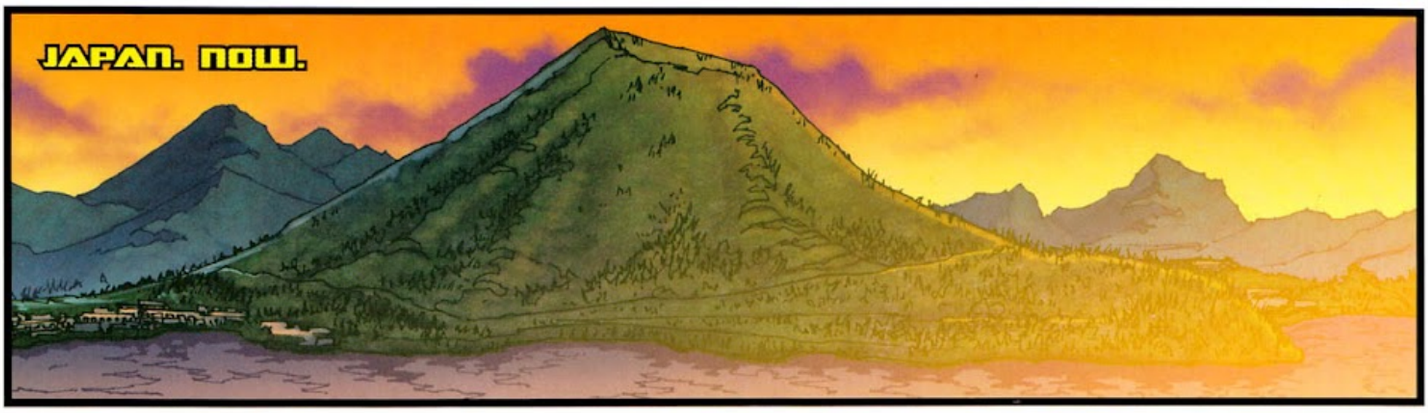
WHEN WE FIRST MET, I PROMISED WING I'D HELP HIM FREE THE SLAVES AND RETURN THEM TO THEIR HOMES.
THAT'S A PROMISE I INTEND TO KEEP.

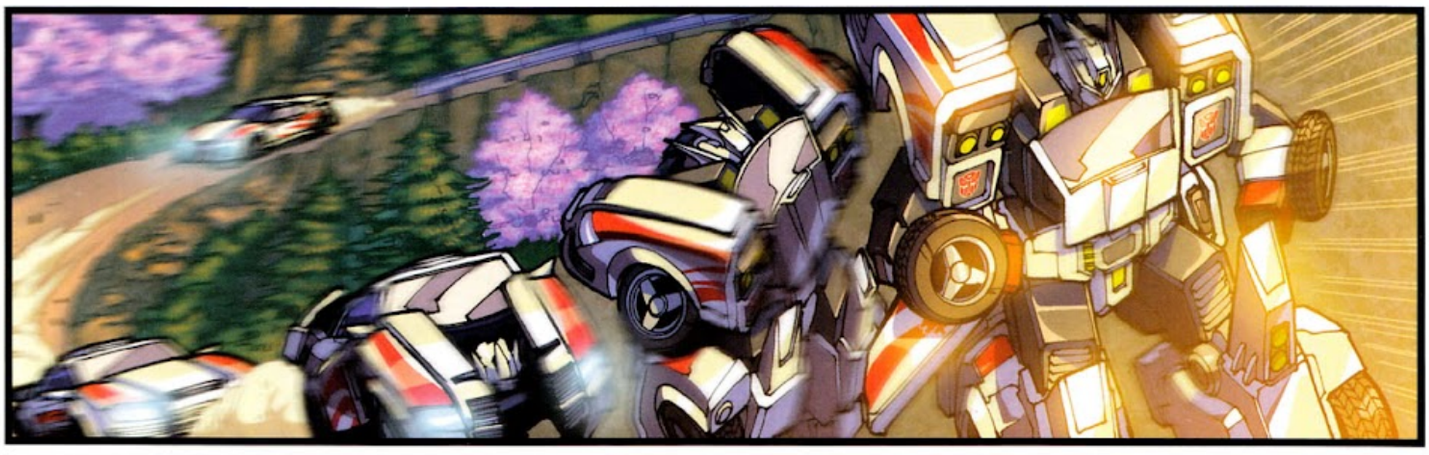
AND THEN WHAT?
I'M NOT SURE.

I DON'T KNOW WHERE I BELONG ANYMORE. NOT WITH THE DECEPTICONS, OBVIOUSLY.
LOGIC WOULD DICTATE I JOIN THE AUTOBOTS, BUT... I'M NOT CONVINCED.


THEN TAKE THIS.

ALLOW IT TO SERVE AS A REMINDER OF WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU HAVE ACHIEVED HERE.
NO MATTER WHAT YOU EVENTUALLY CHOOSE, REMEMBER TO STAY TRUE TO YOUR NEW PATH AND TO UPHOLD YOUR HONOR.
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE ONE OF US. THE WAR IS FAR FROM OVER, BUT EACH DAY WE TAKE ONE STEP CLOSER TO REAL PEACE.
AND WITH ANY LUCK, YOUNG KNIGHT, ONE DAY, FAR FROM HERE, YOU TOO WILL BE AT PEACE.


JAPAN. NOW.



THE END.